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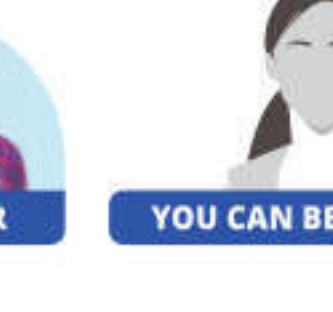
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The World

TOPOF THE WORLD



President Recep Tayyip Erdogan. File

TURKEY

'Will deepen ties with East while still facing West'

Ankara: President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said on Wednesday that Turkey would not stop deepening ties with the East, including the BRICS group of nations and the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO), even as it continued to face West. Speaking at an event in Ankara, Erdogan said debates over an "axis shift" were unfounded, but that Nato-member Turkey had to adapt to new centres of power. "That is the approach that lies behind our country's will to expand the basis of dialogue with all of them, from the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation to BRICS and ASEAN," Erdogan said. **REUTERS**

JAPAN

Chinese carrier entered border waters: Govt

Tokyo: A Chinese aircraft carrier entered Japan's contiguous waters for the first time on Wednesday, Japan's defence ministry said, the latest in a string of military manoeuvres that has ratcheted up tensions between the neighbours. The carrier, accompanied by two destroyers, sailed between Japan's southern Yonaguni and Iriomote islands, entering an area that extends up to 24 nautical miles from its coastline where Japan can exert some controls as defined by the United Nations. Japan's Deputy Chief Cabinet Secretary Hiroshi Moriya said Tokyo had conveyed its "serious concerns" to Beijing. **REUTERS**

THE NETHERLANDS

Govt seeks slow opt-out from EU migration rules

Amsterdam: The Netherlands' right-wing government said on Wednesday it would seek to opt out from the European Union's migration rules if and when the bloc next renegotiates its core treaties - even though this is unlikely to happen any time soon. In power since July, the government led by Geert Wilders' nationalist, anti-Islam PVV party has said it wants to clamp down on unwanted arrivals and aims for the "strictest-ever asylum regime", with stronger border checks and harsher rules for arriving asylum-seekers. **REUTERS**

GALLANT SAYS NEW PHASE NEEDS 'courage, determination and perseverance'

IRAN CONDEMNS LATEST ATTACK in Lebanon, offers help to those injured

BLINKEN WARNS ABOUT RISK OF escalation in region, impact on truce bid

Hezbollah reels, Israel says new phase of war

ASSOCIATED PRESS
BEIRUT, SEPTEMBER 18

WALKIE-TALKIES AND solar equipment exploded in Beirut and multiple parts of Lebanon on Wednesday in an apparent second wave of attacks targeting electronic devices a day after hundreds of pagers used by Hezbollah blew up, state media and Hezbollah officials said.

Speaking to Israeli troops on Wednesday, Israeli Defence Minister Yoav Gallant said, "We are at the start of a new phase in the war — it requires courage, determination and perseverance." He made no mention of the explosions of electronic devices but praised the work of Israel's army and security agencies, saying "the results are very impressive."

Hezbollah, which was thrown briefly into disarray by the pager attacks, said on Wednesday it had attacked Israeli artillery positions with rockets, the first strike at its arch-foe since the blasts wounded thousands of its members in Lebanon and raised the prospect of a wider Middle East war.

Iran condemned attacks in Lebanon on Tuesday and Wednesday that involved exploding communications devices, government spokesperson Fatemeh Mohajerani said in a post on X Wednesday, offering help to the wounded.

"The terrorism of the Zionist regime causes aversion and disgust. Iran strongly condemns yesterday's criminal explosion of communication devices and today's criminal explosion of walkie-talkies, which resulted in the death and injury of hundreds of civilians," Mohajerani said.

Meanwhile, US Secretary of State Antony Blinken on Wednesday warned against the risk of escalation in the Middle East threatened to derail his latest regional diplomacy push. He did not say who the US believes was behind the blasts.

Interim govt gives Bangladesh Army magisterial powers to enforce policing

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
DHAKA, SEPTEMBER 18

BANGLADESH'S INTERIM government has granted magisterial powers to the Army for two months to improve law and order in the violence-hit country and prevent "subversive acts".

The Ministry of Public Administration issued a notification on the government's decision on Tuesday, saying it will be applicable with immediate effect.

The powers will be given to commissioned officers of the Army. The order will remain in force for the next 60 days.

Home Adviser Lt Gen (retd.) Md. Jahangir Alam Chowdhury said on Wednesday that the people will get the benefit of bestowing magistracy power upon the army. BSS news agency reported. "Police officials who are yet to join the services, won't be allowed to join anymore," he said, adding that the "people of Bangla will reap the benefit of



Lebanese soldiers gather outside a damaged mobile shop after an explosion, in the port city of Sidon, on Tuesday. AP

Mass pager attack turns spotlight on Unit 8200, Israel's cyber warfare group

REUTERS
LONDON, JERUSALEM, SEPT 18

THE MASS pager attack against Hezbollah in Lebanon has turned the spotlight on Israel's secretive Unit 8200, the Israel Defense Forces' intelligence unit, which a Western security source said was involved in planning the operation.

A senior Lebanese security source and another source told Reuters that Israel's Mossad spy agency was responsible for a sophisticated operation to plant a small quantity of explosives inside 5,000 pagers ordered by Hezbollah. One Western security source told Reuters that Unit 8200, a military unit that is not part of



The American University of Beirut Medical Center on Wednesday. Reuters

the spy agency, was involved in the development stage of the operation against Hezbollah which was over a year in the making.

The source said Unit 8200 was involved in the technical side of testing how they could insert explosive material within

the manufacturing process.

The Israeli military declined to comment. The prime minister's office that has oversight of Mossad did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

The unit is effectively Israel's early warning system, and is also famous for a work culture that emphasizes out-of-the-box thinking to tackle issues previously not encountered or imagined. This helped some graduates build Israel's high-tech sector and some of its biggest companies.

The unit has a high turnover rate of young recruits replacing veterans, said Kobi Samboursky, a former 8200 member and Managing Partner at Gilot Capital Partners, an early stage fund investing in cybersecurity and artificial intelligence.

WILL RETURN NORTH ISRAEL RESIDENTS, SAYS NETANYAHU

Jerusalem: Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu vowed on Wednesday to return tens of thousands of residents evacuated from northern border areas to their homes, amid mounting tensions with the Iranian-backed Hezbollah movement in Lebanon. "We will return the residents of the north securely to their homes," he said in a brief video statement, giving no further details. **REUTERS**

Ukraine drones trigger quake-sized blast at arsenal in western Russia

REUTERS
LONDON, SEPTEMBER 18

A LARGE-SCALE Ukrainian drone attack on Russia triggered an earthquake-sized blast at a major arsenal in the Tver region on Wednesday, forcing the evacuation of a nearby town, war bloggers and some media reported.

Unverified video and images on social media showed a huge ball of flame blasting high into the night sky and multiple detonations thundering across a lake about 380 km west of Moscow.



The explosion in Russia's Tver region on Wednesday. Reuters

NASA satellites picked up intense heat sources emanating from an area of about 14 square kilometres (5 square miles) at

the site in the early hours and earthquake monitoring stations picked up what sensors thought was a small earthquake.

Diddy used clout to build empire of sexual crime: Indictment

ASSOCIATED PRESS
NEW YORK, SEPTEMBER 18

FOR 10 MONTHS, rumblings, lawsuits, law enforcement raids and mounting allegations of widespread sexual abuse had surrounded Sean "Diddy" Combs.

The business empire, cultural cachet and fatherly image he had cultivated in the decades since he became a hot young hip-hop mogul in the 1990s had begun to erode.



Sean 'Diddy' Combs

On Tuesday, those ripples became a wave with the unsealing

of a sweeping indictment alleging years of sex trafficking and conspiracy, to which he pleaded not guilty before a federal magistrate ordered him jailed without bail as he awaits trial.

The indictment accuses Combs of presiding over a sordid empire of sexual crimes that used his "power and prestige" for "sex trafficking, forced labour, interstate transportation for purposes of prostitution, drug offenses, kidnapping, arson, bribery and obstruction of justice." It describes

'Need new security regime if Trump has to play golf'

REUTERS
WASHINGTON, SEPTEMBER 18

THE HEAD of the Secret Service told Donald Trump in a private meeting that significant new security arrangements will be needed if he wants to keep playing golf, *The New York Times* reported on Tuesday.

Trump asked Ronald Rowe, the Secret Service's acting director, in a meeting Monday whether it was safe for him to continue playing, the newspaper said. Rowe said the Secret

Service views the golf course at Joint Base Andrews in Maryland as easier to secure because it is a military course. That meeting occurred a day after the Secret Service thwarted a second apparent assassination attempt on Trump in less than two months.

On Sunday, Secret Service agents fired on Ryan Wesley Routh, the apparent would-be assassin, when they saw the barrel of his gun poking through the fence line at Trump's golf course in West Palm Beach, Florida, and local police officers later arrested him.

the inducement of female victims and male sex workers into drugged-up, elaborately produced sexual performances dubbed "Freak Offs" that Combs arranged, directed, masturbated during and often recorded. The events would sometimes last days and require IVs to recover from, the indictment said, and Combs used his employees as though they were a film crew.

It alleges he coerced and abused women for years while using blackmail, including the

videos he shot, and shocking acts of violence to keep his victims in line, coordinated and facilitated from the top down by a network of associates and employees.

Prosecutors said he used the same companies, people and methods he used to build his business and cultural power to facilitate his crimes. They said they would prove it with financial, travel and billing records, electronic data and communications and videos of the "Freak Offs" to prove their case.

COMPANY REPORTED MORE THAN \$1.2 Bn IN TOTAL DEBTS, \$679.5 Mn IN TOTAL ASSETS

Tupperware, household food-container brand since 1950s, files for bankruptcy

ASSOCIATED PRESS
SEPTEMBER 18

TUPPERWARE BRANDS, the company that revolutionised food storage decades ago, has filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection.

Florida-based Tupperware plans to continue operating during the bankruptcy proceedings and will seek court approval for a sale, "in order to protect its iconic brand," the company said just before midnight Tuesday.

The company is seeking bankruptcy protection amid growing struggles to revitalise its business. Tupperware sales growth improved some during the early days of the COVID-19 pandemic, but overall sales have been in steady decline since 2018 due to rising competition. Financial troubles too have continued to pile up.

Doubts around Tupperware's future have floated around for some time. Last year, the company sought additional financing as it warned investors about its ability to stay in business and

its risk of being delisted from the New York Stock Exchange.

In Tuesday's bankruptcy petition, Tupperware reported more than \$1.2 billion in total debts and \$679.5 million in total assets. Shares for the company have fallen 75% this year and closed Tuesday at about 50 cents apiece.

Tupperware's roots date back to 1946. According to the company's website, shortly after the Great Depression, chemist Earl Tupper found inspiration while creating molds at a plastics factory — setting out on a mission



CEO Laurie Ann Goldman said the brand is not going anywhere

to create an airtight seal for a plastic container, to help families save money on food waste.

The brand experienced explosive growth in the mid 20th century — particularly with the rise of Tupperware parties, first held in 1948. Tupperware parties notably gave many women a chance to run their own businesses out of their homes, selling the products within social circles.

The system worked so well that Tupperware eventually removed its products from stores. In its bankruptcy announcement,

the company maintained that there were no current changes to Tupperware's independent sales consultant agreements.

According to court documents published Tuesday, Tupperware currently employs more than 5,450 employees across 41 countries — and additionally partners with global sales force of over 465,000 consultants who sell products on a freelance basis in nearly 70 countries.

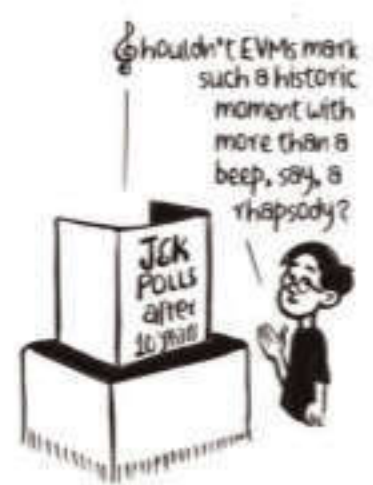
Tuesday's announcement also pointed to aims to "further advance Tupperware's transfor-

mation into a digital-first, technology-led company," possibly signalling a move toward increased reliance of sales on the brand's website or perhaps more online-focused marketing. In a statement,

Tupperware President and CEO Laurie Ann Goldman acknowledged Tupperware's recent financial struggles and said that the bankruptcy process is meant to provide "essential flexibility" as the company pursues this transformation. She also maintained that the brand wasn't going anywhere.

BUSINESS AS USUAL

By UNNY



Fed cuts rate by half-point, cites 'greater confidence' on inflation

HOWARD SCHNEIDER & ANN SAPHIR
WASHINGTON, SEPTEMBER 18

THE US Federal Reserve cut interest rates by half of a percentage point on Wednesday, kicking off what is expected to be a steady easing of monetary policy with a larger-than-usual reduction in borrowing costs that followed growing unease about the health of the job market.

"The committee has gained greater confidence that inflation is moving sustainably toward 2%, and judges that the risks to achieving its employment and inflation goals are roughly in balance," policymakers on the US central bank's rate-setting committee said in their latest statement, which drew a dissent from Governor Michelle Bowman who favored only a quarter-percentage-point cut.

Policymakers see the Fed's benchmark rate falling by another half of a percentage point by the end of this year, another full percentage point in 2025, and by a final half of a percentage point in 2026 to end in a 2.75%-3.00% range.

The endpoint reflects a slight upgrade, from 2.8% to 2.9%, in the longer-run federal funds rate, considered a "neutral" stance that neither encourages nor discourages economic activity.

Even though inflation "remains somewhat elevated", the Fed statement said policymakers chose to cut the overnight rate to the 4.75%-5.00% range "in light of the progress on inflation"

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

80% VOTING IN JAMMU'S Inderwal, Healthy in Valley too



A queue outside a polling station at Bijbehara in Anantnag district during the first phase of Assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir on Wednesday. Shuaib Masoodi

J&K thumbs-up to first Assembly polls post 2019, Phase 1 turnout 61%

BASHAARAT MASOOD, NAVEED IQBAL & ARUN SHARMA
SOUTH KASHMIR, JAMMU, SEPTEMBER 18

IN ITS first Assembly elections in 10 years, and the first after the abrogation of Article 370 in 2019, 61.11% of the voters turned out in Jammu and Kashmir for the first phase of polling on Wednesday. The figures were almost the same as 2014 and 2008, with the brisk polling at the start of the day trickling towards the later half.

Chief Electoral Officer Pandurang Pole said voting figures are likely to register a marginal increase once final figures are in from remote areas, and after receiving postal ballots. No repolling had been ordered at any place and no major incidents of violence reported, Pole said.

The 2014 overall Assembly poll turnout was 66%, with the 24 constituencies voting in the first phase registering almost the same voting percentage as



Wednesday's. In the recent Lok Sabha elections, overall polling was 58.46%.

Jammu region, where eight seats went to vote, saw heavy polling, though at some places lesser than in 2014. The three

Assembly seats in Kishtwar district recorded the maximum

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

MORE REPORTS
PAGE 15

64 YEARS OF PACT THAT SURVIVED WARS

Review, modify Indus Waters Treaty, India tells Pak, looks to renegotiate

SHUBHAJIT ROY
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 18

SIXTY-FOUR years after the two countries signed the Indus Waters Treaty (IWT) in Karachi on September 19, 1960, India has served formal notice to Pakistan seeking "review and modification" of the treaty, signalling serious political intent in Delhi to end it.

This notice is qualitatively different and a step higher than



India is building the Kishanganga (above) and Ratle power projects in Jammu and Kashmir. NHPC

India's notice to Pakistan in January 2023 for the "modification" of the treaty. This time, it is seeking "review and modification" — an escalation that essentially underlines the intention to revoke the treaty and renegotiate it.

Sources said Wednesday that India served formal notice to Pakistan on August 30, seeking review and modification of the IWT under Article XII (3) of the pact. Under Article XII (3) of the

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Hezbollah hit again: Day after pagers explode, hand-held devices go off

BASSEM MROUE, JOHNSON LAI & JUSTIN SPIKE
BEIRUT, SEPTEMBER 18

EXPLOSIONS WENT off in Beirut and multiple parts of Lebanon in an apparent second wave of detonations of electronic devices, Hezbollah officials and state media said Wednesday, reporting walkie-talkies and even solar equipment being targeted a day after hundreds of pagers blew up. At least nine people were killed and 300 were wounded, the Health Ministry said.

(The New York Times put the death toll at 14, over 450 injured.)



At the site of an explosion in Sidon, Lebanon. Reuters

Several blasts were heard at the funeral in Beirut for three Hezbollah members and a child killed by exploding pagers the day before, according to

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

'No one is vying for CM chair': Meet the doctors leading Kolkata protest

SWEETY KUMARI & PREMANKUR BISWAS
KOLKATA, SEPTEMBER 18

IT WAS the most enduring image of the over month-long doctors' protest against the RG Kar rape and murder. On September 14, a group of young doctors stood in the rain with their hands folded as Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee appeared to have an argument with them outside her home in Kolkata's Kalighat.

On Monday, her government finally relented, announcing that they would accept "99 per cent" of the protesters' demands — including replacing Kolkata's po-

lice commissioner.

But outside the state health department Swasthya Bhawan — the site of the protest — doctors are yet to fully back down. "We need systemic change and we know that will take time," Lahari Sarkar, one of the protesting doctors, says.

As parleys with the government continued Wednesday, with the doctors being called for another meeting, The Indian Express spoke to those at the forefront of the protests.

Aniket Mahato, junior doctor, RG Kar

One of the faces of the protest, Mahato was among

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

CABINET ACCEPTS KOVIND PANEL'S RECOMMENDATIONS

One nation, one election set in motion, will be in two phases

Nationwide consultations will be held, committee to be formed for implementation of simultaneous polls: Govt

DAMINI NATH & DIVYA A
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 18

MOVING A step closer towards holding all elections simultaneously in the country — in keeping with the BJP's long-standing 'One Nation, One Election' manifesto promise — the Union Cabinet on Wednesday accepted the recommendations of the high-level committee chaired by former President Ram Nath Kovind. The eight-member panel, in its report submitted in March, suggested that Lok Sabha and State Assembly elections be held together, followed by local body polls within 100 days.



Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw at a press conference after the Cabinet meeting in New Delhi on Wednesday. ANI

Announcing the decision, Union Information and Broadcasting Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said there was "consen-

sus" in the Cabinet on the issue, and the government would now initiate nationwide consultations

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

BJP's message of resolve, consensus-building; TDP backs move, with a rider

LIZ MATHEW
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 18

THE UNION Cabinet's nod to the Ram Nath Kovind-led high level committee's proposal for One Nation, One Election, initiating the process for simultaneous polls across the country, is a signal to detractors of the Narendra Modi government that it remains on course to implementing its agenda — the setback in the Lok

Sabha elections notwithstanding.

Sources said the government was clear about pressing ahead despite the realisation that the process is going to be "elaborate" and would need the support of parties in the Opposition too, to clear Parliament.

Sources said that the government is open to referring the Bill to a Joint Parliamentary Committee once it is introduced to evolve a consensus. "There

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

EXPLAINED
E Change in law, state consent

THE KOVIND Committee has said ratification by states is not needed for the Constitutional amendments to transition to simultaneous Lok Sabha and Assembly elections. But Constitutional amendments related to preparation of a common electoral roll and syncing municipal and panchayat polls with LS elections must be ratified by at least half of the total states.

Opp criticises move: Not practical, blow to federalism, cheap stunt

ASAD REHMAN
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 18

CRITICISING THE Cabinet's decision, the Opposition parties on Wednesday said 'One Nation, One Election' was not a practical idea and this was "another cheap stunt" by the BJP to distract from more important issues. Some warned that such a move would "destroy federalism and compromise democracy". They also questioned how simultaneous polls could be held when even the Maharashtra Assembly elections were not held with the on-going polls in Haryana and Jammu and Kashmir.

"This is not practical and will not be allowed. At the time of elections, they can't find any issues and they bring such things to divert from the main issues. The people of this country will not accept this," Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge said at a press conference at the AICC headquarters.

Among the Opposition-ruled states, Kerala Chief Minister and CPI(M) leader Pinarayi Vijayan said there was "a hidden agenda to weaken India's federal system and grant overwhelming power

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

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The long journey of Jugraj Singh: Selling flags at Attari to hockey glory for India

PAGE 1
ANCHOR

NITIN SHARMA
CHANDIGARH, SEPTEMBER 18

AS A child, Jugraj Singh, the son of a porter, sold Tricolour flags and water bottles to tourists at the Attari-Wagah border to help his family make ends meet.

On Tuesday evening, the national anthem resounded at Moqi after India beat hosts China 1-0, thanks to a Jugraj goal in the 51st minute, to defend the Asian Champions Trophy hockey title. Jugraj's strike was crucial.



Hockey India

Jugraj's goal helped India lift the Asian Champions Trophy.

Along with the Asian Games gold last year, India are now the dominant force in Asian hockey.

Jugraj, 27, is a versatile player and can play as a centre-back, full-back and a drag-flicker. Along with captain Harmanpreet Singh, he is one of the most powerful penalty corner experts in the sport. Scoring the winning goal, off a pass from Harmanpreet, made Tuesday the biggest day on the hockey field for Jugraj.

Jugraj's father Sukhjeet Singh watched the final on TV back in Attari. The 59-year-old has worked as a porter for 30 years and is now posted at the Attari Integrated Check Post.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

FROM PAGE ONE

One nation, one election set in motion

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and set up an “implementation committee” to explore how the Kovind Committee’s recommendations can be brought to fruition.

The government will have to start by building political consensus, as the transition requires Constitutional amendments — first to align the Lok Sabha and State Assembly elections; and then to synchronise municipal elections and prepare a common electoral roll, which needs ratification by half the total states.

For now, the Cabinet’s in-principle approval and acceptance of the report will not have any immediate implications on the upcoming Assembly elections in Maharashtra, Jharkhand, and even Delhi.

While no time frame has been specified yet, the Kovind Committee had recommended a “one-time transitory measure” which would require the government to identify an “appointed date” on “the date of the first sitting of the House of the People after a general election”. All State Assemblies that go to polls after the “appointed date” would have their terms expire with the Lok Sabha. This would synchronise the electoral cycles of the central and state governments.

Then, as the second step, municipality and panchayat elections should be held within 100 days of the Lok

Sabha and state elections, it had said.

Given that the first sitting of Parliament after this year’s Lok Sabha polls has already passed, government sources indicated that there is room for the implementation committee to make adjustments to the Kovind Committee’s recommendations, as these are merely suggestions and not binding on the government.

The exact timeline — whether polls will be held simultaneously in 2029 or 2034 — wasn’t clear on Wednesday. Asked by reporters when the recommendations would be implemented and whether a Bill would be brought in the upcoming Winter Session of Parliament, Vaishnav pointed out that Union Home Minister Amit Shah had already said the government would implement ‘One Nation, One Election’ in its current tenure.

Without going into the specifics of the timeline, Vaishnav said the government would implement the plan in two phases, as proposed by the Kovind Committee.

After the nationwide consultations are completed, implementation would follow in steps, and it would be the government’s endeavour to build a consensus over the next few months, he said. Once the consultation process is over, the government will draft a Bill, place it before the Cabinet, and subse-

quently take it to Parliament, he added.

The Kovind Committee had recommended 18 amendments, including 15 Constitutional amendments, to synchronise the terms of Lok Sabha and state Assemblies, simultaneously hold municipal elections, and prepare a common electoral roll.

In case of a hung Assembly or no-confidence motion, it had recommended holding Assembly elections for the remainder of the term of the Lok Sabha so that they would remain synchronised. In case of a hung Lok Sabha or no-confidence motion, it suggested fresh elections for the duration of the unexpired term.

According to Law Ministry sources, the implementation of the report will require at least two Constitutional amendments, first to bring Lok Sabha and State Assembly elections together, and the second — which has to be ratified by at least half of the total states — to synchronise municipal elections and prepare a common electoral roll. A consequential amendment for Union Territories and the National Capital Territory of Delhi would follow.

Currently, the Election Commission conducts the Lok Sabha and Assembly elections and prepares the electoral rolls for these, while the State Election Commissions do the same for municipal elections.

● Review, modify Indus Waters Treaty, India tells Pak

IWT, its provision may from time to time be modified by a duly ratified treaty concluded for that purpose between the two governments.

Sources said India’s notification highlights “fundamental and unforeseen changes in circumstances” that require a reassessment of obligations under various Articles of the IWT.

Among various concerns, the sources highlighted, important ones include “change in population demographics; environmental issues — need to accelerate development of clean energy to meet India’s emission targets; impact of persistent cross-border terrorism”.

The move comes amid the elections in J&K, and the spike in Pakistan-sponsored terror attacks in the region.

The notification to review and modify the treaty was issued in the background of a separate prolonged

controversy with respect to the Kishanganga and Ratle Hydro Projects. In this regard, the World Bank has simultaneously activated both the Neutral Expert mechanism and the Court of Arbitration on the same set of issues. The Indian side has, therefore, also called for “reconsideration of the dispute resolution mechanism” under the IWT, sources said.

With this notification, sources India has called Pakistan to begin G2G (government-to-government) negotiations in order to review the treaty under the provisions of Article XII (3).

This would mean that the treaty can be opened for renegotiations, for the first time since it was signed and one that has survived three Indo-Pak wars and the Kargil conflict, as well as several other provocations including terror attacks.

As per the provisions of the treaty,

all the water of “Eastern Rivers” — Sutlej, Beas and Ravi — would be available for “unrestricted use” of India. Pakistan would receive water from “Western Rivers” — Indus, Jhelum and Chenab. “All the waters of the Eastern Rivers shall be available for the unrestricted use of India, except as otherwise expressly provided in this Article,” Article II (1) of the treaty stated. Article III (1) with provisions related to the Western Rivers stated: “Pakistan shall receive for unrestricted use all those waters of the Western Rivers which India is under obligation to let flow under the provisions of Paragraph (2).”

India is constructing two hydel power projects: the Kishanganga project on the Kishanganga river, a tributary of Jhelum, and the Ratle project on the Chenab. Pakistan has objected to them.

● J&K thumbs-up to Assembly polls

turnouts, with Inderwal witnessing 80.06% polling, followed by Padder-Nagseni (76.80%) and Kishtwar (75.04%).

While G M Saroori, who earlier represented Inderwal as a Congress MLA, is contesting from the seat as an Independent, from Kishtwar, the BJP has fielded Shagun Parihar, the daughter of a BJP leader killed by terrorists. In 2014, Kishtwar had seen 78.23% polling.

In Doda district, Doda West recorded 74.14% polling. Doda 70.21%, and Baderwah 65.27%. Doda has seen the killing of six Army personnel, including two Captains, apart from four terrorists, since June this year. In 2014, the turnouts in Doda and Doda West, which have seen changes in delimita-

tion, were slightly higher.

Banihal and Ramban recorded 71.28% and 67.34% voting, respectively.

For the 16 seats in the Valley, all falling in South Kashmir, the turnout was more or less the same as in 2014 and 2008. While 53.55% voters cast their votes here Wednesday, the turnout in 2014 was 54.93%. But for the first time in three decades, the security force deployment was not over-awing and people were allowed inside the polling booths without frisking.

As per election officials, there was 54.77% polling in the seven constituencies of Anantnag district (it was a higher at 60% in 2014 and 63.20% in 2008); 46.66% in the four seats of Pulwama district (was low at 44% in 2014 and 46.09% in 2008 as well);

● Jugraj’s journey

“I don’t know anything other than doing hard labour, but my son has made me and our family proud. He used to sell Indian flags at the Beating Retreat ceremony to help me run the family, but see where he has reached today,” says Sukhjeet.

When he started off in the late 1980s, Sukhjeet recalls unloading cement bags weighing 50 kg each from trucks that came from Pakistan. After the 2019 Pulwama attacks, trucks from Afghanistan carrying dry fruits would arrive. Sukhjeet’s father, Dara Singh, worked as a porter as well.

Jugraj’s life would have run on similar lines had it not been for coach Navjit Singh, who spotted his athletic ability. Navjit got the youngster to start playing hockey with other children on the grass field at Government Senior Secondary School, Attari.

Navjit, a former hockey player himself, had taken the initiative to be a talent-spotter and train village children at the ground. “Jugraj was well-built compared to other children his age. It perhaps had to do with him lifting heavy loads when his father needed a helping hand,” he says.

To provide young trainees with proper hockey kits, Navjit would tap his NRI friends in England and Canada. He recalls how Jugraj would juggle time between training and working as a street vendor at the Attari border. “Jugraj would practice in the morning and afternoon before going to sell flags to tourists. Even though his day would end late, he would be the first one to be at training in the morning,” the coach recalls.

To save money, Jugraj would walk 2 km from home to the border and back, his mother Paramjeet Kaur says.

Jugraj’s big break came in 2005 when a Punjab government sports wing was established at the senior secondary school by former India captain Pargat Singh, the then Punjab sports director.

“We won a title in an inter-district tournament at Moga, Jugraj scoring the winning goal with a reverse hit. He drank his favourite drink, a Frooti, after the win,” Navjit says.

Childhood friend and junior team-mate Girish Duggal has seen Jugraj’s early struggles. “He gave all the money from the sale of flags to his father to help him support the family, which includes two elder sisters and a brother,” says Duggal.

● Hezbollah targeted again

Associated Press journalists at the scene. An AP photographer in the southern city of Sidon saw a car and a mobile phone shop damaged after devices exploded inside of them. A Hezbollah official, speaking on condition of anonymity, told the AP that walkie-talkies used by the group exploded. Lebanon’s official news agency reported that solar energy systems exploded in homes in several areas of Beirut and in southern Lebanon, wounding at least one girl.

The new blasts hit a country still thrown into confusion and anger after Tuesday’s pager bombings, which appeared to be a complex Israeli attack targeting Hezbollah members that caused civilian casualties, too. At least 12 people were killed, including two children, and some 2,800 people

wounded as hundreds of pagers used by Hezbollah members began detonating wherever they happened to be — in homes, cars, at grocery stores and in cafes.

In the first wave of bombings, it appeared that small amounts of explosives had been hidden in the thousands of pagers delivered to Hezbollah and remotely detonated. The reports of further electronic devices exploding suggested even greater infiltration of boobytraps into Lebanon’s supply chain.

The attacks renewed fears that the simmering conflict between Israel and Hezbollah could escalate into all-out war. Secretary of State Antony Blinken said the US is still assessing how the attack could affect efforts to negotiate a cease-fire in the Israel-Hamas war in Gaza. AP

● Fed cuts rate by half-point

and the balance of risks”.

The Fed “would be prepared to adjust the stance of monetary policy as appropriate if risks emerge that could impede the attainment of the Committee’s goals”, with attention to “both sides of its dual mandate” for stable prices and maximum employment.

The Fed’s policy meeting this week was its last before voters go to the polls in what is expected to be a close US presidential election on November 5.

The size of the initial cut will likely raise questions about the Fed’s strategy, and whether policymakers were merely trying to account for the fast decline in inflation since last year, or address concerns among some officials that the US job market may be weakening faster than desired or needed to ensure inflation fully returns to the Fed’s 2% target. It

is currently about half a percentage point above that, and the new economic projections now show the annual rate of increase in the personal consumption expenditures price index falling to 2.3% by the end of this year and down to 2.1% by the end of 2025.

The unemployment rate is seen ending this year at 4.4%, higher than the current 4.2%, and remaining there through 2025. Economic growth is seen at 2.1% through 2024 and 2% next year, the same as in the last round of projections issued in June.

Meanwhile, following the US Fed’s move, Qatar’s central bank cut key interest rates by 55 basis points, the central bank of Kuwait cut its discount rate by 25 basis points, and the United Arab Emirates cut its base rate applied to the overnight deposit facility by 50 basis points.

REUTERS

● BJP’s message of resolve, consensus-building

could be modifications to the original proposals as well,” a top leader said.

On Wednesday, briefing the media, Union minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said detailed discussions would be held on various fora across the country over the next few months.

The Kovind panel had submitted its recommendations for One Nation, One Election earlier this year, before the Lok Sabha polls. The contours of Parliament have changed since, with the BJP not enjoying a simple majority in either House.

On Wednesday, the TDP, which is now the biggest group sustaining the BJP in power, came out in support of One Nation, One Election — but with a rider. The party had not clarified its stance earlier on the issue, and had not made any submission to the Kovind panel.

TDP parliamentary party leader Lavu Srikrishna Devarayalu told *The Indian Express*: “We welcome the idea of simultaneous elections. But like the minister said (at the briefing on the Cabinet decision), it calls for broad discussions. We want it to be discussed on every platform — every booth, every mandal... Feedback has to be collected on the pros and cons.”

“We have to also see if simultaneous polls would save as much money as is portrayed.”

The curtailing of expenses has

been one of the government’s main arguments in favour of simultaneous polls.

The ruling party, however, is confident that many Opposition parties will do a rethink in the process of discussions. “Since it is a proposal on which you cannot allege a divisive agenda or Hindutva agenda, we hope maximum parties will come around. We think we can build a consensus gradually as the idea is good for the country. A Joint Parliamentary Committee or a Standing Committee platform can provide that opportunity,” a BJP leader said.

“It has a twin advantage — the BJP can signal that the government and its reforms are on the track, and it can rally its middle class support base which has expressed its distaste for frequent elections. The Prime Minister wanted such a non-divisive governance issue to be taken up to demonstrate that the government was unfazed, notwithstanding the Opposition’s attack over the drop in our numbers,” said a source.

To mark the completion of the first 100 days of the Modi government’s third term, its top ministers came forward to underline that all its agendas were on track despite the Lok Sabha poll setback. A senior government functionary said earlier this week that there was no area where the government had not taken policy deci-

sions to continue the work it had initiated 10 years ago.

In the current Lok Sabha of 543 MPs, the NDA has 293 members, while in the Rajya Sabha of 234 MPs, the NDA has 121 members backing it (including the six nominated members).

Among the Opposition parties, the Congress, TMC, DMK, SP, AAP, and Left had opposed One Nation, One Election in their responses to the Kovind panel. The BSP, which had also opposed the move, has now come around to supporting it.

On Wednesday, after the Cabinet cleared the proposal, several BJP allies extended their support for One Nation, One Election.

JD(U) chief spokesperson Neeraj Kumar told *The Indian Express*: “We fully support the Union Cabinet’s decision as we believe that simultaneous elections would save election expenses and expedite development works... Those criticising it should know that we followed One Nation, One Election until 1967.”

Union Minister for Food Processing and IJP (R) chief Chirag Paswan called it a “historic step”. He posted on X in Hindi: “One Nation, One Election will strengthen the country’s democratic process, reduce election expenses, and accelerate development projects.” Shiv Sena (Shinde) MP Shrikant Shinde called it “a game changer”.

● Opp criticises move: Not practical, blow to federalism

to the Central government”. “The Sangh Parivar is covertly working to transform India’s electoral politics into a presidential-style system. The ‘One Election’ slogan undermines the diversity of Indian parliamentary democracy... pushing for simultaneous elections without regard for state-specific political dynamics, risks imposing the Central government’s will and overturning electoral mandates — an attack on democracy itself,” he said in a statement.

Criticising the move, Jharkhand Chief Minister and JMM chief Hemant Soren said: “They (BJP) want only one party to rule this country and only one government in place... be it the Centre or the states. There will be no other government... These people who disrupt communal harmony always want to rule.”

Karnataka Chief Minister and Congress leader Siddaramaiah said, “The ‘One Nation, One Election’ proposal... is not only against the federal structure but also practically impossible to implement. The fact that such an important proposal is being rushed through without any consultation with Opposition parties reveals the malicious intent of the Narendra Modi government.”

TMC MP Derek O’Brien called it “another cheap stunt from the anti-democratic BJP”. “Why were the Maharashtra elections not announced with the elections in

Haryana and Jammu & Kashmir? Here’s why. The Maharashtra government announced the Ladki Bahin scheme in its Budget this June. The first tranche reached the bank accounts of women in August, and the second tranche will reach beneficiaries in October. You can’t do three states in one go, and you talk about ‘One Nation, One Election’... Also, tell us how many constitutional amendments, including curtailing or extending terms of State Assemblies, will be done. Classic Modi-Shah jumla,” he said in a statement.

SP president Akhilesh Yadav asked if “any time limit (has) been set for the Constitutional amendments... or is this just a slogan thrown around to be put on hold for the future, like women’s reservation”. “Is this a plan to change the results by privatising the elections,” he said in a post on X. “When the BJP topples the elected government of any state, will the elections of the entire country be held again... If President’s Rule is imposed in a state, will the elected government have to wait till the next general elections to return or will there be fresh elections in the entire country,” he asked.

Shiv Sena (UBT) spokesperson and MP Arvind Sawant questioned whether ‘One Nation, One Election’ was a priority for the government when there were more pressing issues linked to unemployment, inflation, crimes

against women and farmers. “The government should be given an award for being bogus and cunning. You could not schedule the Maharashtra and Haryana polls together. You could not hold Mumbai civic body polls. Can’t people see through this,” he said. RJD MP Manoj Jha said, “Our party had some fundamental questions which remain. Till 1961-62, there was ‘One Nation, One Election’... It stopped because one party had dominance, and the dominance was challenged in some regions. The chain was broken... In some states, multiple elections had to be held within five years as governments collapsed. Now, what will the arrangement be... If governments can’t be formed in states, there may be proxy governments through the Governor or President till the next elections. Or elections may be held again, and if that happens, the chain will be broken.”

AIMIM’s Asaduddin Owaisi said, “I have consistently opposed ‘One Nation, One Election’ because it is a solution in search of a problem. It destroys federalism and compromises democracy, which are part of the basic structure of the Constitution.”

AAP MP Sandeep Pathak questioned how simultaneous elections would be held when even the Maharashtra Assembly polls could not be held with Haryana and J&K.

● Meet the doctors leading Kolkata protest

those who spearheaded a march to press for the resignation of former Kolkata police commissioner Vineet Goyal on September 3. It was during this protest march that young doctors carried a replica of a human spine as a symbolic act to protest police actions.

Originally from Jhargram, Mahato completed his internship and residency at SSKM Medical College and currently holds an MD in anaesthesiology and critical care.

“In the face of our movement, the state government was forced to remove the Kolkata CP, DC North and two state health officials. We consider these steps as a partial win for our movement. It is a joint victory of all of us. There is not one person who is the face of this movement,” he says.

Kinjal Nanda, postgraduate residency in microbiology at RG Kar

He is probably the most easily recognisable face of the protests. A North Kolkata native, Kinjal has also acted in movies such as Hiralal (2018) and Byomkesh Hatyamancha (2022). While he has been accused of targeting the ruling government, Nanda believes it is his familiar face and acting roles that may have made him an easy target.

“I’m a doctor, and so are all the others present here,” Kinjal, who went to Kishore Bharati High School in Dum Dum, says. “Politics holds no interest for me.”

About the movement, he believes that the protesters have done everything they could to cooperate with the state government.

“Mamata Banerjee spoke of resigning from her position, but I believe such tactics are more effective in other political crises. No one is vying for her chair, and out of respect for the position, we decided to engage in dialogue. Even in the future, if we are invited, we

will certainly attend,” he says.

Lahari Sarkar, resident junior doctor, RG Kar

It was Lahari, a third-year junior doctor at RG Kar Medical College, and Debashis Haldar, a student of Calcutta Medical College and a senior resident in anaesthesia, who did most of the talking on that rainy night of September 14.

“I kept telling myself that we have the people behind us. We are fighting for the countless people of Bengal. So what if she’s the CM? We cannot buckle under pressure,” Lahari says.

Although she has never actively participated in political rallies, she was part of the June 2019 protests against the assault of a junior doctor at Kolkata’s at the Nil Ratan Sircar Medical College and Hospital.

Ever since the RG Kar protest began last month, Lahari’s parents call her every hour to check up on her. “If I don’t reply, they get worried... They keep asking me why am I rubbing so many people the wrong way,” Lahari, a resident of South Kolkata who got her MBBS degree from Calcutta National Medical College and Hospital, says.

Debashis Haldar, student of Calcutta Medical College & a senior resident in anaesthesia

Debashis has been involved in numerous protests involving the medical fraternity in the past — including the 2020 protests for changes in the West Bengal Health Department’s Covid policies.

One of the leaders at the forefront of the September 14 meeting, Haldar, who has also participated in some television debates on the protest, has also faced trolling on social media.

“They call me names and I have received a few threats too. But that doesn’t worry me since we are fighting the good fight,”

he says.

Rumelika Kumar, MD (Community Medicine), All India Institute of Hygiene and Public Health

Soon after the second failed meeting between Mamata Banerjee and the doctors, a video of Rumelika Kumar in tears and hugging a fellow doctor went viral. Soon, she got a call from her mother, who chided her for crying.

“She said I shouldn’t let them feel they got the better of us,” Rumelika, who has been with the protest from the beginning, says.

She calls this protest a “people’s movement”. “We have normalised sexual violence against women so much that something like this had to happen for us to wake up”.

Amrita Bhattacharya, junior resident, Vivekananda Institute of Medical Sciences

The news of the rape and murder snapped something inside Amrita. “We’ve all been exposed to similar conditions — we’ve done 36-hour shifts, slept in on-call rooms without doors, and walked down the dark corridors of hospital. But we’ve never felt unsafe. When this happened, something stirred in me. It is yet to sink in,” she says.

Asfakullah Naiya, third-year postgraduate trainee in surgery, RG Kar

Asfakullah was on duty the day the junior doctor’s body was discovered in RG Kar. Coming from a conservative business family from the outskirts of the city meant there was opposition to his involvement in the protests. But that didn’t stop Naiya, who felt the cause was personal.

“I couldn’t sit around doing nothing,” he says. “People are saying that our protest is politically coloured but the only colour we have with us is the Tricolour... Our intentions are transparent.”

Prime Minister's Package worth ₹ 2 Lakh Crore for Youth



One Month's Salary to First-Time Employees upon Joining Workforce

100 Days of Modi 3.0
Paving the Path to Viksit Bharat

Atishi set to be sworn in Saturday

Council of Ministers yet to be finalised

EXPRESSNEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 18

ATISHI IS likely to be sworn in as the chief minister of Delhi on Saturday with the Office of Lieutenant Governor V K Saxena on Wednesday proposing the day for holding the swearing-in ceremony to the President and the Ministry of Home Affairs.

While Arvind Kejriwal had handed over his resignation as CM to Saxena on Tuesday evening, Atishi has presented a letter stating she had been elected as the leader of AAP Legislature Party.

A question mark over her Cabinet, however, persists.

With Kejriwal resigning and former Patel Nagar MLA Raaj Kumar Anand leaving the Cabinet and the party a few months ago, there are now two vacant berths.

Party sources said that none of the current Cabinet members will be changed. "Gopal Rai, Kailash



Atishi at a hospital to meet the injured after a building collapsed on Wednesday. PTI

Gahlot, Saurabh Bharadwaj and Imran Husain will remain. Atishi, who holds 13 departments, will become the CM, meaning there could be some redistribution of workload. One of the frontrunners for the Cabinet berth is Kondli MLA Kuldeep Kumar. For the second minister, deliberations are underway," a party leader said.

Kejriwal will vacate official residence in 15 days, give up security: Singh

New Delhi: AAP national convenor Arvind Kejriwal will "live among the people" after vacating CM's official residence at Civil Lines in 15 days, AAP Rajya Sabha MP Sanjay Singh said on Wednesday. He added that Kejriwal would also give up all other facilities such as security, car, driver and staff.

A senior PWD official said, "Officials usually get six to eight months to vacate government accommodation but politicians usually vacate the houses in a week or two... However, they can stay for a few months."

Singh alleged that Kejriwal had faced attacks in the past, particularly from BJP members. "We tried to explain to him that his official residence is vital not just for his role but also for his safety. But he did not listen," he said.

Delhi BJP president Virendra Sachdeva said: "...Now, the drama of vacating Sheesh Mahal will take place... After that, his nominated CM, Atishi, will request him (to not leave the official residence), but he will refuse, leading to a drama of moving into a small flat, slum area or back to Kaushambi..." **ENS**

Adityanath launches projects worth Rs 750 cr in Ghaziabad

NEETIKA JHA
GHAZIABAD, SEPTEMBER 18

UTTAR PRADESH Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Wednesday launched projects worth Rs 750 crore in Ghaziabad, while also distributing tablets and smartphones to over 6,000 college students, appointment letters to over 10,000 people and loans worth Rs 327 crore to over 632 beneficiaries under the MSME Innovative Scheme.

At an event held at Ghanatgar Ramlila Maidan as part of the scheme, Adityanath handed over cheques to seven persons for setting up industries – from automobile to packaging of sweet boxes. Among them, Rs 30 crore was given to a person named Sanjeev Kumar Gupta for manufacturing home appliances.

Further, 10 people were given appointment letters on the dais for jobs at private organisations, with salaries ranging from Rs 75,000 to Rs 12,000.

For Lokesh Kumar (23), a resident of Ashok Vihar Loni Dehat who got his appointment letter as physiotherapy assistant at Kanishk Physiotherapy Delhi, it was a dream come true. "Yesterday, a programme coordi-



Yogi Adityanath in Ghaziabad on Wednesday. Express

nator called me and asked me to reach the venue by 8 am. When I reached here, I was told that I am going to get a job," he said.

Kumar had on June 23 completed his six-month course as a general duty assistant in Ghaziabad under the Uttar Pradesh Kaushal Vikas Yojana.

Speaking at the event, Adityanath said that soon, work on AllMS Ghaziabad will begin and a proposal in this regard has been sent to the Union government. He added that the UP government is set to launch Mukhyamantri Yuva Udyami Yojana, under which interest free loan of Rs 10 lakh will be provided to youths for setting up

businesses.

Taking on the Opposition, Adityanath said that Congress and Samajwadi Party have always made promises but nothing has been implemented on the ground. "All Congress and SP did was make big promises. But every time they came to power, they misused it, looted people and never benefited anyone except their family..." he said.

"Aurangzeb's soul has entered their bodies. All they want is to exploit youths and force businessmen to migrate," he added.

Adityanath maintained that in the last seven years, Ghaziabad has developed as a smart city, which was not the case earlier.

AAP leaders say ready for polls, workers are on ground — some caution 'a lot has changed'

GAYATHRI MANI
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 18

AMID CHOOSING Atishi as the chief minister-designate, the AAP top brass is gearing up for Delhi polls, in case it is held in November along with Maharashtra elections. The party maintains that its workers have already started working on the ground and have no "fear of losing".

After announcing his resignation as CM, Arvind Kejriwal had on Sunday demanded that the Assembly polls be held in November. On Tuesday, AAP senior leader Gopal Rai had reiterated that AAP wants Delhi elections to be held in October-November. Delhi polls, however, are expected

to be held in February 2025.

Not only AAP, even Opposition BJP's leaders maintained that they are prepared to fight early polls.

"We are ready for early elections because not only us but the people also want to see Arvind Kejriwalji as the CM... If polls are held today or tomorrow, we are ready... I don't see any fear of losing," AAP Rajendra Nagar MLA Durgesh Pathak said.

Kasturba Nagar MLA Madan Lal maintained that party workers are "very active on ground". "We are ready since day one because people choose you based on the work you have done... Together, we will fight and win the polls, be it this year or next."

"There will be no major changes... Even if some leaders are

not renominated, AAP will give a chance to someone who is very active in the party and on the ground," he added.

While in 2015, AAP had won 68 of the 70 seats, in 2020, it won 62 seats. The BJP had won eight seats in the last Assembly polls.

Another AAP MLA, however, said that though the party top leadership is seeking early polls, it is "technically not possible". "This is nothing but a way to gain sympathy... AAP is in majority (in the Assembly) but in the recent past, a lot has changed on ground... who are all going to get repeated is also a big question."

A senior leader added, "We are ready for polls in November but... some are unlikely to be repeated... No doubt, we get majority of votes

in the name of Kejriwal but things on ground have changed in the last one year..."

Meanwhile, AAP Malviya Nagar MLA Somnath Bharti said that all MLAs are in sync with the top leadership's decision. A senior AAP leader also said the party will announce its campaign plans in the next 10 to 15 days.

A BJP leader, meanwhile, said that for both AAP and BJP, seeking early elections is nothing but posturing. "...Kejriwal is demanding polls to gain sympathy because the public sentiment is very fresh now. After Diwali, pollution will increase and continue for two months... this will be major setback for AAP... The BJP, meanwhile, is saying it is ready for polls because its has no option..."

Home Ministry hands over charge to NDMC members

EXPRESSNEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 18

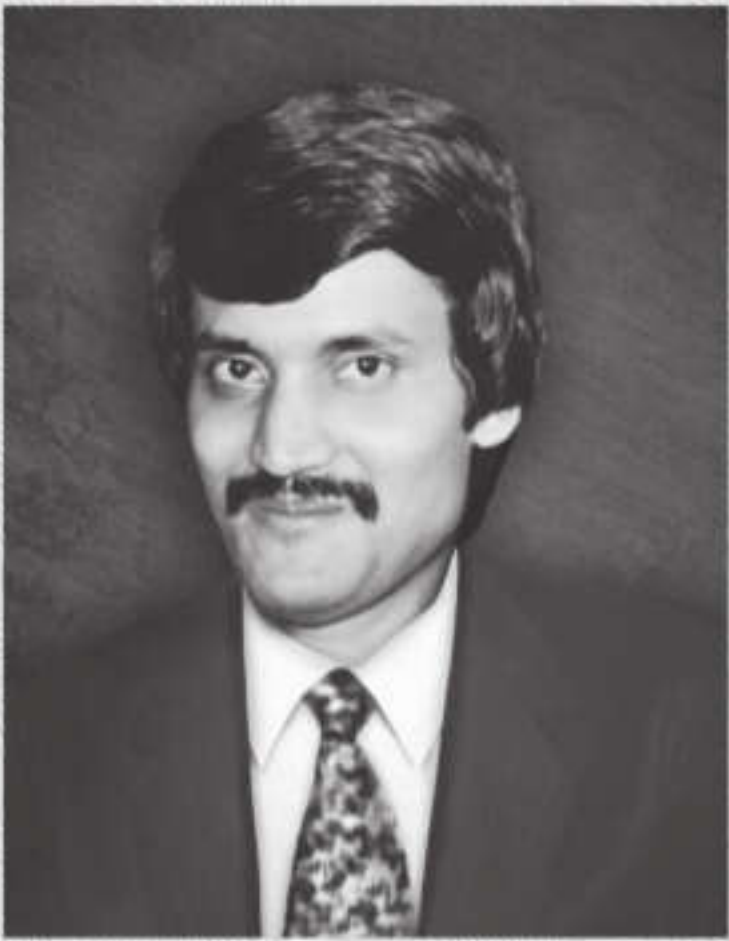
ADAY before the end of the tenure of the New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC) on Wednesday, the Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) handed over the charge to the newly-nominated members on Tuesday. However, key positions, including the post of all four non-official members, remain vacant.

NDMC, a 13-member council, consists of elected officials and non-official members. The MHA nominates these members for a term of five years. One MP and two MLAs from the city are part of the council as their constituencies fall under the NDMC's jurisdiction.

The elected members include Bansuri Swaraj, Member of Parliament from New Delhi, Arvind Kejriwal, former chief minister and MLA from New Delhi, and Virendra Singh Kadian who is the Delhi Cantonment MLA, as one-third of the Delhi Cantonment's area falls under the council.

Two feared drowned during Ganesh Visarjan

New Delhi: Two cousins are feared to have drowned in Yamuna river at Chilla Yamuna Khadar on Tuesday night during Ganesh Visarjan. The police identified the deceased as Tushar (18) and Vishal (21). "Divers and NDRF teams are searching for the two men," a police officer said. While four youths had entered the river for immersion, Vishal and Tushar drowned, a senior officer said. A missing persons case has been lodged, said police. **ENS**



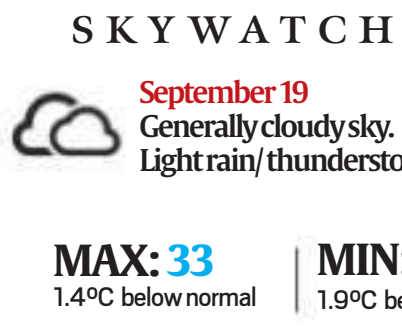
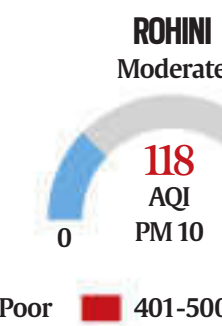
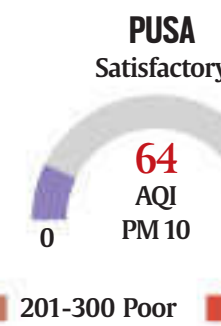
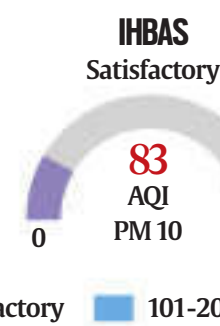
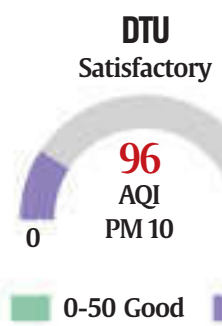
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CM-DESIGNATE ANNOUNCES Rs 10 LAKH AS COMPENSATION

4 people killed, 14 injured as building with a factory collapses in Karol Bagh

HIMANSHU HARSH NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 18

FOUR PEOPLE died and 14 others were injured after a building collapsed in Bapa Nagar, Karol Bagh, Wednesday morning.

According to police, they got a call around 9 am regarding the incident. Teams rushed to the site in Prasad Nagar and found four floors of a five-storey building had collapsed and its residents trapped under the rubble. It also affected an adjacent building.

A factory that made shoes for women ran from the collapsed building. Around 20 migrant labourers, who worked in the factory, stayed in the same building. Most of them were asleep when it came crashing, said neighbours.

The Delhi Fire Services (DFS) reached the scene and joined the rescue operation. Later, the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) was also called in.

By the end of a seven-hour-long operation that ended at 5.30 pm, 18 people were pulled out. "Since the lanes leading to the spot were very narrow, the rescue operation was tricky...", said S K Dua, DFS Deputy Chief, earlier in the day. He said 50-60 firemen from around seven stations were involved in the operation.

The injured were rushed to Ram Manohar Lohia and Lady Harding hospitals. Of them, three workers — Mugeem (25), Mujib (18), and Mosin (26) — and Aman (12), who came to visit them, succumbed to injuries. They were from Khatnagar village, Rampur district, UP. By evening, one person was discharged, 11 others were undergoing treatment and two were in critical condition.

In the building next door, where around 8-9 people lived, a woman and her nephew were injured when the second floor collapsed. The reason for the collapse is yet to be ascertained. "The Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) has been asked to clear the affected area as rescue operations have ended," said DCP (Central) M Harsh Vardhan.

An MCD official said the area falls under a 'special area' category under the Delhi Laws (Special Provisions) Act, 2006. "The building was not found in a dangerous condition during the pre-monsoon survey done by the Maintenance Department. Neither any new construction



Around 20 migrant labourers of the shoe manufacturing factory stayed in the building. Praveen Khanna

was being done nor any building material was found around the collapsed premises," said the official. The building does not have a building plan but is regularised.

Police filed a case under sections 106 (death by negligence) and 290 (negligent conduct with respect to pulling down, repairing or constructing buildings, etc.) of the BNS.

Delhi chief minister-designate Atishi, who visited the injured at RML Hospital, said the Delhi government would provide financial assistance of Rs 10 lakh to families of the dead. "I am in touch with the Mayor... Legal action will be taken against the building owner... strict action will also be taken against the building department and other officials concerned whose responsibility was to ensure if building bylaws were followed or not," she said.

She said a magisterial inquiry was ordered into the incident in a post on X.

New Delhi MP Bansuri Swaraj also went to RML hospital to meet the injured. Questioning the delay in conducting the MCD's dangerous buildings survey, Delhi BJP spokesperson Praveen Shankar Kapoor held the mayor responsible for the loss of life. "I had been urging the Mayor to order a survey of dangerous buildings... but she didn't," he alleged.

‘Wanted to provide mother, sister a happy life’: Kin of 12-yr-old victim

HIMANSHU HARSH NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 18

SAVITA KUMARI (36) was asleep in her second-floor home at Bapa Nagar, Karol Bagh, when a loud thud woke her. Panicking, she and her sister-in-law, Jyoti (27), frantically searched for Jyoti's son, Aarav — they found him motionless under a pile of rubble, with his hand sticking out.

As Savita rushed to pull him out, she realised she was bleeding from the head, Jyoti sustained injuries to her legs and back.

Soon, her sister Harpyari Devi and brother-in-law Mahesh Kumar, who lived in the same locality, came rushing to the spot and helped the three get out of the building. It was only when Savita came out that she realised what had happened — four floors of the nearby five-storey building had collapsed, affecting her own building.

Around 9 am on Wednesday, a building housing a shoe-making factory came crashing, burying 18 residents — several of them migrant labourers work-



NDRF personnel were part of the rescue operation. ANI

ing in the factory — under the rubble. Four of them later died.

One of them was 12-year-old Aman Khan. A class VII student, from UP's Rampur, he was visiting his cousin in Delhi during his school vacation. "He was a bright student and wanted to be a businessman. His father passed away in 2016. He wanted to provide his mother and younger sister a happy and prosperous life. He was their last hope after his father's death," said his cousin Md Usman Gani Khan, 32.

Aman's mother and sister are yet to hear the news of his death. Usman said the child last spoke to them on Tuesday morning and

told them he would return soon.

Three brothers — Mosin (26) and his two brothers Sami (20) and Sunny (25) — lived in the building. While Mosin succumbed to injuries, Sami is in ICU and Sunny is undergoing treatment, said their neighbour and friend, Mazhar Raza, 30. "Their father died a long time ago. They are the only earners and support of their mother," he added.

Prince Gautam, who lives nearby, said he was sleeping when he heard a loud sound and felt the bed shake "I rushed to the terrace to find out that a building near mine had collapsed," said the 23-year-old.

Ahead of winter, graded plan to tackle pollution sees changes

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 18

THE COMMISSION for Air Quality Management (CAQM) Tuesday tweaked the revised Graded Action Plan (GRAP) — enforced when air quality in Delhi-NCR is expected to decline — for the coming winter.

One of the major changes is how GRAP is invoked. Previously, actions under Stages II, III and IV of GRAP had to be invoked three days in advance. Now, actions will be taken merely "in advance... provided also that the higher projected AQI levels are likely to sustain for longer periods (say three days or more)".

In May, the Principal Bench of the National Green Tribunal had pulled up the CAQM for not invoking GRAP I despite the air quality index breaching the 200-mark and falling within the 201-300 range for six consecutive days that month.

In the revised schedule, among the actions taken under GRAP Stage 1 (when AQI is between 201 to 300), recycling of construction and demolition waste at appropriate processing

THE REVISED PLAN

■ Strict restrictions on plying of Delhi-registered diesel operated medium goods vehicles (MGVs) to BS-III standards or below, in the Capital, except those carrying essential commodities/ providing essential services

■ GNCTD to not permit BS-III and below diesel-operated LCVs (goods carriers) registered outside Delhi, to enter city, except those carrying essential commodities/ providing essential services



Interstate buses from NCR states other than EVs/CNG/BS-VI diesel not allowed to enter Delhi (excluding buses/tempo travellers with All India Tourist Permit)

facilities is no longer mandated. Earlier, recycling of C&D waste at an appropriate processing facility was mandatory but as per the revised plan, the proper covering of vehicles transporting the C&D waste is mandated with no mention of its recycling.

Further, the use of anti-smog guns in C&D sites is to be done in proportion to the total area of construction for the project.

Under GRAP Stage II (AQI 301-400), the schedule for regulated operations of diesel generator (DG) sets across NCR has been tweaked to accommodate DG sets with 62 kilowatts capacity up to 800 kilowatts capacity to adapt to dual fuel mode systems or retro-

fitted emission control devices.

For Stage III (AQI 401-500), the revised plan has new additions such as restrictions on plying of Delhi-registered diesel vehicles of a certain category. (see box)

Certain types of construction and demolition activities will face a strict ban. These include major welding and gas-cutting operations; cement, plaster or other coatings and cutting/grinding and fixing of tiles, stones (except for minor indoor repairs); waterproofing etc.

Under permitted C&D-related activities, a new exemption has been made for telecommunication services (only for non-open trench work).

‘Lady Don’ held for murder of Air India crew member

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 18

KAJAL KHATRI aka ‘Lady Don’, wife of jailed gangster Kapil Mann, was arrested by the Delhi Police Crime Branch in connection with the murder of an Air India crew member in January.

On January 19, the airline member, Suraj Mann, was going to a gym near his residence in Noida when three persons on a bike opened fire at him. Suraj succumbed to injuries. His brother was Parvesh Mann, a key member of the Neeraj Bawania gang, lodged in jail in an MCOCA case.

Police found that Suraj did not have a criminal history and his murder was a fallout of rivalry between Parvesh and Kapil Mann, a member of the Lawrence Bishnoi-Gogi gang, which began in July 2018.

An officer said Parvesh Mann was behind the murder of Kapil Mann's father; in revenge, Kapil killed the former's brother.

Police said Kajal also suspected that Suraj used to help his jail brother financially.

Additional CP (Crime) Sanjay Bhatia said a team of the Crime Branch (Northern Range) was formed to trace Kajal, called ‘Lady Don’ by police.

The officer said, "Kajal Khatri was wanted in a murder case and there was a bounty of Rs 25,000 on her head. On January 19, Suraj, an airline crew staffer, was murdered in Noida; he was the brother of Parvesh Mann. Two people were arrested in the case and said they were directed to carry out the killing by Kapil."

Police said Kajal was part of the conspiracy as she was Kapil Mann's partner and had been on the run; both Noida and Delhi Police were on the lookout for her. "Kajal was handling Kapil's gang in his absence," said an officer.



The building is 44 years old. Praveen Khanna

Structurally weak, Odisha Bhawan set to be demolished by Dec

SAMAN HUSAIN NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 18

ODISHA BHAWAN, located in the heart of Delhi's diplomatic area and the oldest government-run guesthouse, is to be demolished by December, as the New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC) has marked it to be structurally weak.

The demolition of the 44-year-old building, which is yet to begin, has been pending since 2020, when a structural safety audit of government-owned buildings was carried out by NDMC. It was then that Odisha Bhawan was found to be structurally weak and beyond repair. However, it had continued to welcome guests until a month ago, as the then NDMC report had stated that it should be demolished within two to three years.

The Odisha Bhawan has 24 rooms, a restaurant and a gym. Over the years, top dignitaries from the Odisha government, such as Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi, acting Chief Justice of Odisha High Court, Chakrabarti Sharan Singh, as well as former Governor Raghubar Das have stayed here during their visits to the Capital.

For staffers of Odisha Bhawan, the decision is bitter sweet.

Praful Kumar Sahu has been working at the Bhawan as a receptionist since 1990. "At first, we felt emotional because a building that has become our home was going to be demolished. But most of us are going to retire within an year, so it does not bother us anymore," he said.

Jagish, who has been working as a waiter for 32 years, said, "The Odisha Bhawan has lived a full life... we want our state to also have a grand bhawan. We have heard that the new building will have nearly 100 rooms."

Narahari Maohapatra has been working as a member of the housekeeping staff for the last 28 years.

"No cracks are visible on the walls because we have been repeatedly getting the building painted... But it's an old building... It's the oldest Bhawan in Delhi and is also among the oldest in India. No new staff has been hired ever since it was declared to be structurally weak."

He added that as all staffers at Odisha Bhawan are set to retire soon, they have been told they can spend their remaining time working at Odisha Niwas.

ASSAULT ON ACADEMIC AUTONOMY, SAY FACULTY MEMBERS

JNU to review special centres, teachers up in arms

VIDHEESHAKUNTAMALLA NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 18

THE JAWAHARLAL Nehru University Teachers' Association (JNUTA) has condemned the varsity's decision to form a seven-member committee to review the functioning of its special centres and called it an "assault on academic autonomy". AJNU official, however, said there would be no inference in the syllabi or courses and it was only to understand if the specialised centres have been sanctioned as per the University Grants Commission

(UGC) guidelines or not.

"The committee has been given the broad mandate of reviewing courses, syllabi, faculty strength, infrastructure etc. and directed to submit a status report in a month. The notification hasn't provided any reason for the sudden need for this 'review'," JNUTA said in a statement Wednesday.

There are eight special centres — like the Centre for Molecular Sciences and Centre for Sanskrit Studies — which are independent and do not fall under any school in the varsity. Established over the past 24 years to promote interdisciplinary re-

search and education, the centres operate under a set of rules enshrined in the JNU Act, statutes, and ordinances. They have their own statutory bodies to oversee academic matters, including course design and syllabi.

JNUTA said the decision, announced in a notification issued on September 11, undermines JNU's democratic and decentralised model of governance. "All academic matters, including courses and syllabi, are approved by these statutory bodies and subsequently approved by the Academic Council. Neither the Academic Branch nor V-C has any

statutory power to appoint a random committee to 'review' courses, syllabi and functioning of any special centre, or for that matter any school or centre," the statement added.

Speaking to *The Indian Express*, a JNU official however, said, "The UGC's NAAC has recently given us strong comments over the specialised centres, stating that there is a duplication of work of several departments happening here. This exercise is only to understand who started these centres, when they started, do they have UGC-sanctioned posts or not. We are making a status report to un-

derstand the vision and mission of these centres so that we can strengthen them further."

JNUTA maintained that the administration's decision could lead to the erosion of academic freedom. "The illegal imposition of a random committee... is nothing short of an attempt to replace the autonomy of Centres with a system of authoritarian control, which can only do severe damage to an educational institution such as JNU," its statement further said.

The teachers' association said it would intensify protests if the decision is not withdrawn.

HOMES DEMOLISHED IN 2006, RESIDENTS SAY 'IT'S BEEN A LONG STRUGGLE'

18 years on, HC rules in favour of Jangpura slum dwellers

SOHINI GHOSH NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 18

EIGHTEEN YEARS after a slum in Jangpura B was demolished without notice, the Delhi High Court directed the Delhi Development Authority (DDA) and Delhi Urban Shelter Improvement Board (DUSIB) to rehabilitate 43 of its erstwhile residents.

For Ziaul Haque (49), one of the 43 petitioners, it's been a long struggle: "It is a welcome judgment for us. Half a dozen of the earlier petitioners died, many wanted to give up, but I asked them to persist. We all are daily wage labourers — some are rickshaw drivers, some whitewash walls, run a paan shop or work in cycle repair shops. My son and daughter were born in the jhuggi they demolished illegally."

In its September 17 order, the court of Justice Sanjeev Narula,

while directing their rehabilitation, set aside a decision of DUSIB and DDA from January 30, 2015, denying the petitioners' claim for relief.

Now, the DDA will have to provide alternative accommodation to the petitioners as per its 2004 rehabilitation policy instead of the more recent Delhi Slum and JJ Rehabilitation and Relocation Policy, 2015. The 2004 policy requires slum dwellers to have documentary proof of their existence at the site "prior to 31.01.1990 or post 1990 but before December 31, 1998, till date of removal".

The slum was razed on November 8, 2006, by the MCD and DDA without prior notice or granting an opportunity of a hearing to the dwellers. The petitioners, represented by senior advocate Prashant Bhushan and advocate Nisha Tiwari pro bono, claimed over 500 families were living at DBS Camp in Jangpura B for more than two decades. Ziaul



Special arrangement

A protest staged by petitioners following the demolition.

said they protested at Jantar Mantar in the winter of 2006 before moving the HC in 2007.

On November 15, 2010, the HC had directed DDA and DUSIB to carry out a survey to determine their eligibility for rehabilitation. The petitioners then appeared before the authorities with documents to substantiate their claim of residence. However, in 2011, the authorities concluded that no sur-

vey could be conducted as jhuggis didn't exist at the site anymore.

Incidentally, in 2004, a survey of the area was conducted by the MCD's Slum and JJ (Jhuggi/Jhopri) Department, which was the predecessor authority of DUSIB. The dwellers then moved the HC with a contempt petition in 2011. In November of that year, the HC directed DUSIB to verify documents produced by the petition-

ers and pass a reasoned order. The slum dwellers submitted documents again but to no avail. They moved a second contempt plea.

In January 2013, DUSIB submitted in court only those with valid ration cards issued prior to December 31, 1998, would be eligible for rehabilitation as per the 2004 DDA policy. In May 2013, DUSIB said 43 residents were deemed eligible. However, the DDA challenged DUSIB's survey on the ground that it didn't adhere to the HC's directions issued on November 15, 2010, whereby DUSIB had to consider DDA's concerns regarding commercial use of the land by the petitioners for hazardous plastic waste.

Ziaul said the objection was based on the fact that several residents were plastic scrap dealers.

The court then asked DUSIB and DDA to work together to resolve the issue. On January 30, 2015, claims of all petitioners were

rejected and they were declared ineligible for rehabilitation as their dwellings were being used to 'store hazardous plastic waste'.

Ruling in the petitioners' favour, Justice Narula held, "... the aforementioned decision is arbitrary... unjust... A holistic reading of the DDA policy, 2004, reveals it was designed to ensure displaced individuals, particularly those genuinely residing in jhuggis, are provided alternative housing... There is no substantial or credible evidence to refute petitioners' residential status... Notwithstanding, the policy explicitly contemplates rehabilitation even for those who used their dwellings for both residential and commercial purposes... Lack of clear and convincing evidence to establish that petitioners were solely engaged in illegal hazardous waste activities, the petitioners should be granted right of rehabilitation as per prevalent DDA policy, 2004."

Exact definition of climate finance needed, says Environment Minister



Narendra Modi
Prime Minister





Ekhnath Shinde
Chief Minister

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Intitiave by

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Minister for Skills, Employment, Entrepreneurship and Innovation

Friday, September 20, 2024

12:00 PM

Swavalambi Ground, Ramnagar, Wardha



Skills, Employment, Entrepreneurship and Innovation, Government of Maharashtra

epaper.indianexpress.com

DGIPR/2024-25 / D 3034

Simultaneous polls: How numbers stand in new House

Without Opposition on board in a significant way, the constitutional amendment Bill can fall in Lok Sabha

LALMANI VERMA,
ANJISHNU DAS
& VIKAS PATHAK
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 18

ON WEDNESDAY, the government set in motion the ‘One Nation, One Election’ proposal, accepting the Ram Nath Kovind-led panel recommendations regarding the same.

Out of the 47 political parties which gave their opinion to the Kovind panel on simultaneous elections earlier this year, 32 supported the idea and 15 opposed it. NDA ally Telugu Desam Party, which did not give its opinion to the panel, told *The Indian Express* that it supported the move in principle.

All the 32 parties which supported the move before the panel were either BJP allies, or friendly towards the party.

Since then, the BJD has turned against the BJP. Of the 15 who opposed the move before the panel, five are parties outside the NDA umbrella which are in power in states, including the Congress.

Before simultaneous polls are implemented, the Kovind panel suggested several constitutional amendments that will

have to be cleared by Parliament, while the creation of a unified electoral roll will require ratification from a majority of the state legislatures.

Article 368(2) on amending the Constitution states, “An amendment of this Constitution may be initiated only by the introduction of a Bill for the purpose in either House of Parliament, and when the Bill is passed in each House by a majority of the total membership of that House and by a majority of not less than two-thirds of the members of that House present and voting, it shall be presented to the President who shall give his assent to the Bill and thereupon the Constitution shall stand amended in accordance with the terms of the Bill.”

After the recent Lok Sabha polls, the parties that supported simultaneous elections before the Kovind panel account for 271 MPs in the Lok Sabha (including 240 from the BJP) – just one short of a simple majority in the Lok Sabha.

The NDA, including the TDP and other parties who neither supported or opposed simultaneous polls, has a Lok Sabha

strength of 293 MPs. The government will require 362 votes, or two-thirds majority, in the Lok Sabha if it turns out in full strength, while the total strength of the NDA is just 293. Only if 439 members are present and voting in the Lok Sabha on the voting day – and the remaining more than 100 abstain – will the Bill garner a two-thirds majority with the NDA’s strength of 293, unless the government can convince non-NDA parties to back it.

This means that unless it can get Opposition parties on board in a significant way, the constitutional amendment Bill can fall in the Lower House.

While the government is somewhat better placed in the Rajya Sabha, the numbers are not comfortable enough to be complacent. That apart, the Bill must get passed in both Houses with a special majority for the constitutional amendment to be successful.

The combined strength in Parliament of the 15 parties that opposed simultaneous polls in the Kovind panel stands at 205 MPs. Of this, the INDIA bloc members account for 203 MPs. Together, INDIA bloc, including

those parties which did not make a submission before the Kovind panel, account for 234 MPs in the Lok Sabha.

In the Rajya Sabha, the NDA has 115 MPs, excluding the six nominated members with whom the ruling alliance has 121 MPs, and the INDIA bloc 85 MPs. If all members of the 250 members of the Rajya Sabha are present, a simple majority would be 125 and two-thirds would be 164 MPs. Currently, there are 234 Rajya Sabha MPs.

In all, while 27 parties which are part of the NDA are in support of ‘One Nation, One Election’, including the TDP, only the Naga People’s Front (NPF) is opposed. All the 10 INDIA bloc parties who responded to the panel opposed the move. Of the parties not attached to any of the two fronts, six are in favour, and four against.

Only two of the 32 parties in support are national parties – the BJP and the Conrad Sangma-led National People’s Party (NPP), which is part of the BJP-led NDA and in power in Meghalaya.

The 15 parties that were opposed include the remaining four national parties recognised by the Election Commission –

the Congress, Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) and CPI(M). Of these 15, the Congress, AAP, DMK, Trinamool Congress (TMC) and the CPI(M) are in power in states; the others include the AIUDF, AIMIM, CPI, NPF, Samajwadi Party (SP), the MDMK and Viduthala Chiruthaigal Katchi of Tamil Nadu, the CPI(M-L), and Social Democratic Party of India.

The BSP, however, which now has just one MP in the Rajya Sabha, has since changed its stance to support the move.

Apart from the BJP and NPP, the 32 parties which supported simultaneous elections include BJP allies All Jharkhand Students’ Union (AJSU), Apna Dal (Soneylal), Asom Gana Parishad, Lok Janshakti Party (R), National Democratic Progressive Party (of Nagaland), Sikkim Krantikari Morcha (in power in Assam), Mizo National Front and United People’s Party Liberal of Assam; JD(U), which recently returned to the NDA fold; Shiv Sena (a faction of which is with the NDA).

The Biju Janata Dal (BJD), which had been on ‘friendly terms’ with the BJP but is now the saffron party’s primary op-

position in Odisha after the Assembly polls this year, also supported the proposal. Former BJP allies Akali Dal and AIADMK also favoured ‘One Nation, One Election’.

The remaining 15 of the 32 parties in support are small, unrecognised parties.

The parties which did not respond to the panel were the Bharat Rashtira Samithi (which was in power till recently in Telangana), IUML, National Conference, new BJP ally JD(S), Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (the ruling party in Jharkhand), Kerala Congress (M), NCP (Sharadchandra Pawar), RJD, Revolutionary Socialist Party (RSP), YSRCP; TDP and RLD (both of which are BJP allies now, the former displaced the YSRCP as the ruling party in Andhra Pradesh recently); Shiromani Akali Dal (Mann); Rashtriya Loktantrik Party; and Sikkim Democratic Front.

The high-level panel on simultaneous polls sought opinion from 62 political parties in all, of which 47 sent their replies, 15 did not respond, while voluntary responses came from others. Eighteen parties also held in-person interaction with the panel.

‘LAND-FOR-JOBS SCAM’

Delhi court summons Lalulal, sons in PMLA case

NIRBHAY THAKUR
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 18

A DELHI court Wednesday summoned former Bihar CM Lalulal Prasad and his sons, Tejashwi and Tej Pratap Yadav, on October 7 in a money laundering case linked to the alleged land-for-jobs scam.

The case pertains to Group-D appointments made in the West Central Railway Zone in Jabalpur (Madhya Pradesh) when Lalulal was Railways Minister, from 2004 to 2009, allegedly in return for land parcels transferred to his family and associates.

Special Judge Vishal Gogne of Rouse Avenue Court said: “In its prima facie view, it emerges that Lalulal Yadav was in a position to facilitate public employment by virtue of his position. Various persons had parted with land parcels for Lalulal’s family at cheaper rates than prevailing market rates.”

“Lalulal seems to have doled out government jobs in exchange for land parcels. Tejashwi had allegedly received shares of a company AK Infosystems at a pittance. There is sufficient material on record to gather use of proceeds of crime. Similarly, the accused persons who sold their land holdings can be viewed to have consciously entered into this and generated proceeds of crime,” the judge added.

While Tej Pratap Yadav was not made an accused in the supplementary chargesheet, the court summoned him as well. “It manifestly emerges that one of the land parcels in Patna was sold to both Tej Pratap and Tejashwi. Thus, the possibility of Tej Pratap’s involvement can not be ruled out just because he didn’t receive any shareholding. It is difficult to leave out one brother over the other. Both were directors in the company. The court finds prima facie that Tej Pratap was also involved...” the court said.

In its first chargesheet, the ED had named former Bihar chief minister Rabri Devi and her daughters, Rajya Sabha member



Former Bihar CM Lalulal Prasad

Misa Bharti and Hema Yadav. Two private companies, AK Infosystems and AB Export, had been named as accused. Hridayanand Chaudhary, a former Railways employee, and Amit Katyal, director of AK Infosystems, were also named.

The ED had earlier alleged that several land parcels were acquired by Katyal, following which the shares of AK Infosystems were transferred to Lalulal’s family members. The Delhi High Court granted bail to Katyal on Tuesday.

The money laundering case stems from a complaint lodged by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), which filed a chargesheet in the case earlier. The CBI had alleged that Rabri and son Tejashwi Yadav took control of AK Infosystems in 2014 for just ₹1 lakh, at ₹10 per share when the company had owned land worth ₹1.77 crore. According to the CBI chargesheet, the company, in 2017, “suddenly” paid back ₹1.35 crore to the promoter-director at a time which coincided with an Income Tax raid on Lalulal.

The CBI had earlier pointed out that most of the candidates who were selected were from a few districts in Bihar “wherein Lalulal had political/financial interest”. Of the 117 candidates that the CBI looked into, 113 were from Bihar. Of these, 108 were still working in the Indian Railways, the CBI had claimed. According to the CBI’s first chargesheet, Lalulal’s family had acquired over one lakh sq ft of land for ₹26 lakh when the then circle rate put the cumulative value of the land at over ₹4.39 crore.

ASSAULT ON ARMY OFFICER, FIANCEE IN ODISHA

Allegation serious, will be dealt with utmost seriousness: HC

SUJIT BISOI
BHUBANESWAR, SEPT 18

THE ORISSA High Court Wednesday observed that the allegation with regard to police atrocities on an Army officer and his fiancée shall be dealt with utmost seriousness and the same shall be taken to its logical conclusion.

Hearing a bail plea by the Army officer’s fiancée, Ankita Pradhan, who was arrested and allegedly manhandled by Bharatpur police in Bhubaneswar, the bench of Justice AK Mohapatra said the arresting officer has failed to follow the procedure laid down in Section 35 of the BNSS.

The court granted bail to the petitioner furnishing a bail bond

of ₹30,000.

As her bail plea was earlier rejected by a lower court, the HC also observed “the learned magistrate has failed to apply his/her judicial mind and has acted in a mechanical manner.” It stated that taking into consideration the seriousness and gravity of the allegation, it appears that “the allegations are very serious in nature.”

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
PANAJI, SEPTEMBER 18

TO CELEBRATE the birthday of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Goa Raj Bhavan Tuesday launched an initiative to protect and preserve ancient trees across the state.

Goa Governor P S Sreedharan Pillai, in presence of Chief Minister Pramod Sawant, launched the initiative – Prachin Vriksha Ayurvedic Chikitsa – officials said.

Under this initiative, seven fruit-bearing trees which are over a hundred-year-old and steadily decaying due to infections, have been identified for Ayurvedic treatment to restore their health and extend their lifespan, Raj Bhavan said in a statement. Over 15 herbs will be applied to these old trees in three phases, in a bid to restore them, officials said.

According to Governor Pillai, a majority of the world is still unaware of these traditional techniques for treating and revitalis-



Goa Governor P S Sreedharan Pillai and CM Pramod Sawant, launch ‘Prachin Vriksha Ayurvedic Chikitsa’ initiative on Tuesday. @DrPramodSawant/X

ing trees through Ayurvedic treatment. “So, it would be fitting to showcase this special tree therapy at Raj Bhavan, as part of an effort to save and preserve old trees through traditional methods. This endeavour will inspire people, particularly the younger generation, towards protecting and preserving our natural heritage and unique traditions,” Pillai said.

CM Sawant appealed to the

people to extend support in preserving the heritage trees. “These ancient trees – such as the banyan, peepal, khejri... some are even over 400 years old – are facing the threat of extinction. Some might not have even heard of these tree species, and that is why their preservation is crucial. Action is required to protect them before they disappear entirely,” Sawant said.

As MP BJP factional feuds spill into the open, state leadership moves to contain fallout

ANAND MOHAN J
BHOPAL, SEPTEMBER 18

OVER THE past few days, fissures have appeared in the BJP in Madhya Pradesh, with the party’s state president VD Sharma working the phones to get bickering leaders not to air their grievances in public, BJP functionaries have told *The Indian Express*. This comes when the BJP is facing rebellions and discontent in its ranks in poll-bound Haryana.

Among the areas in MP where BJP leaders have publicly questioned each other are Chhatarpur, the Vindhya region, and central MP. These are the first signs of internal rifts coming into the open in a state since the BJP bagged 163 of the 230 Assembly constituencies last December.

In Chhatarpur, local leaders have criticised Union Cabinet Minister for Social Justice & Empowerment Dr Virendra Kumar Khatik over the appointment of his representatives in his parliamentary constituency Tikamgarh.

On Sunday, former BJP minister Manvendra Singh criticised

Khatik over the list and participated in a press conference in which the local head of the party’s Scheduled Castes (SC) wing, Lal Diwan Ahirwar, alleged that “criminals who have murder cases against them, who have built houses on government land, and have even been involved in booth capturing have been made representatives and are being given protection.”

The BJP’s Chhatarpur MLA Lalita Yadav weighed in on the issue the following day, telling local reporters that Congress turncoats had become the minister’s representatives. “Without even joining the BJP, they are now representatives of the MP. Those who were raided (in an excise case) are also now representatives,” she alleged.

Khatik defended himself during a visit to Damoh on Monday. “... If you can prove one accusation, I am ready to face any kind of punishment. I want to tell those accusing me that they have come into politics for themselves and have not read Pandit Deendayal (Upadhyaya). We are ready to debate with anyone in public...,” said the Union Cabinet Minister.

Khatik alleged that he was fac-

ing criticism for stopping illegal businesses. “I have been in politics for 29 years and the only reason one person is troubled is that I asked the administration to stop the illegal business going on there. This is why these accusations have been made in retaliation,” he said.

In the Vindhya region, tensions have surfaced between BJP leader Siddharth Tiwari who switched over from the Congress last year and Rewa MP Janardhan Mishra after the latter criticised Tiwari’s grandfather, the late Srinivas Tiwari, who was a regional political heavyweight and a former Assembly Speaker.

“Srinivas Tiwari did politics of terror, hoodliganism, loot, corruption, and favouritism. His grandson has joined the BJP but the BJP has not merged with him. If he is part of the family, he should listen to what his grandfather has done,” Mishra said last week.

Siddharth Tiwari said, “The statements... are shocking and unfortunate. Such remarks should not be passed about people who have passed away... Someone who has spent his whole life for Vindhya, there are lakhs of people connected on an emotional level

to him.”

In central MP’s Raisen district, differences have emerged between Public Health and Medical Education Narendra Shivaji Patel and Hoshangabad MP Darshan Singh Choudhary. BJP insiders said Patel’s name featured after the MP’s on an invitation for a recent public event at a private school. This “angered Patel,” said BJP leaders, and the district education officer subsequently issued a notice to the school.

Sharing the notice on X, Leader of the Opposition in the Assembly Umang Singhar on Saturday wrote, “This raises the question: Is this infighting and jealousy among BJP ministers and MPs?... The BJP claims to be a family, but why is there so much internal strife that official notices are being issued for such matters?”

BJP spokesperson Shivam Shukla denied there was a wider problem within the party. “... There is no tussle among BJP leaders. If there are grievances, they will be discussed and sorted out with the leadership...”

FULL REPORT ON
www.indianexpress.com

‘Rocket that took off in 2014 is in space now’: Dhankhar on Modi’s journey

RITU SHARMA
AHMEDABAD, SEPTEMBER 18

THE ROCKET that took off in 2014 is not in gravitational force anymore but in space, said Vice-President Jagdeep Dhankhar while describing Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s ‘journey’. Dhankhar who was presiding over the three-day 4th Global Renewable Energy Investors Meet and Expo in Mahatma Mandir area of Gandhinagar asserted that interest in renewable energy “is not optional but compulsive”.



Vice-President Jagdeep Dhankhar. Gujarat Government

“Narendra Modi’s journey can be described in three aspects. First in 2014, he was like a rocket who took off. The country was in a despondent mood. His objective was to generate an atmosphere of

hope and possibility. Secondly, after the rocket took off, it was under the gravitational force... generating hope and possibility in 2019. In 2024, after creating history by becoming the PM for the third time, the rocket is not in gravitational force anymore, it is in space. The achievements, therefore, have to be astronomical,” Dhankhar said on Wednesday. Calling the country’s rise “incremental”, Dhankhar said: “India is no longer a sleeping giant... (but) a sleeping elephant on the rise”.

FULL REPORT ON
www.indianexpress.com

झारखण्ड सरकार
वित्त विभाग
(कोषागार एवं सांस्थिक वित्त निदेशालय)
अत्यावश्यक सूचना

एतद् द्वारा माननीय उच्चतम न्यायालय में दायर SLP (C) No.-2786/2024 (झारखण्ड सरकार बनाम नन-बैंकिंग अधिकर्ता एवं विशेष कर सुझा समिति एवं अन्य) में दिनांक-26.07.2024 को पारित अंतरिम न्यायादेश के अनुपालन के क्रम में दस्तनी नोटिस को प्रतिस्थापित सेवा के रूप में निम्नांकित प्रतिवादी-10, 11 एवं 12 को सूचित किया जाता है कि Supreme Court of India के Official Website से याचिका की प्रति, न्यायादेश की प्रति एवं अन्य वांछित कागजात Download कर सुनवाई की अगली निर्धारित तिथि-09.12.2024 के पूर्व अपना पक्ष माननीय उच्चतम न्यायालय के सम्मक्ष प्रस्तुत करने की कार्यवाही सुनिश्चित किया जाय :-

1. प्रतिवादी-10-	AKASHDEEP FINANCE, THROUGH ITS CHAIRMAN CUM MANAGING DIRECTOR, 13 GROUND FLOOR, INDRA PLACE NEW KINGSWAY CAMP-DELHI
2. प्रतिवादी-11-	WARIS FINANCE AND INVESTMENT, THROUGH ITS CHAIRMAN CUM MANAGING DIRECTOR AT 13, CROOKED LANE, ESPLANADE, JANBAZAR, TALITALA, DISTRICT KOLKATA WEST BENGAL- 700069
3. प्रतिवादी-12-	WARIS CAPITAL FINANCE AND INVESTMENT, THROUGH ITS CHAIRMAN CUM MANAGING DIRECTOR AT 13, CROOKED LANE, 5TH FLOOR, KOLKATA, DISTRICT, WEST BENGAL, 700069

उक्त दायर याचिका SLP (C) No.-2786/2024 में दिनांक-29.01.2024 एवं दिनांक-10.04.2024 को माननीय उच्चतम न्यायालय द्वारा पारित अंतरिम न्यायादेश के अनुपालन हेतु प्रतिवादी-10 के उल्लेखित दिल्ली अवस्थित पता पर कार्यालय अनुपलब्ध रहने तथा प्रतिवादी-11 एवं 12 का कोलकाता अवस्थित कार्यालय को केन्द्रीय अन्वेषण ब्यूरो द्वारा सील (Seal) किए जाने के कारण दो बार नोटिस का दस्तनी विशेष दूत के माध्यम से नहीं किया जा सका है।

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IDBI BANK

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AUCTION OF GOLD ORNAMENTS

PUBLIC NOTICE FOR AUCTION OF GOLD ORNAMENTS

Offers are invited for the public auction of the gold ornaments, pledged in favour of the Bank, for the purpose of recovering the dues owed by the Borrower(s) to the Bank, as detailed below. The auction will be conducted at 2:00 P.M onwards in the Bank's premises at IDBI BANK Goel Premises, Near Bharat Jalpan Hotel, Saraiyaganj, Muzaffarpur, Bihar-842001 & of respective borrower/loan account on 25/09/2024

Sl No.	Account No.	Name of the Borrower & Address	Description of gold ornaments pledged	Gross weight in Grams.	EMD in Rs	Reserve price in Rs.	Branch Location For auction process
1.	02946711 00737609	Ranjeet Kumar Mishra	Tikka 1 Pc Nath Lari 1 Pc Necklace 1 Pc Locket 1 PC	5.02 5.5 19.72 3.19	10%	97768.00	Goyal Parisar, India, Near Jalpan Hotel, Saraiyaganj, Muzaffarpur - 842001
2.	02946711 00773607	Shiv Kumar Rathore	Ring 2 pc Locket 1 Pc Ear Ring 3 Pc	5.46 2.7 4.08	10%	42176.00	Goyal Parisar, India, Near Jalpan Hotel, Saraiyaganj, Muzaffarpur -842001

Auction Date-25.09.2024

The auction shall be subject to the terms and conditions of the sale stipulated by the Bank, a copy of which shall be displayed in the notice board of Muzaffarpur Branch from 19.09.2024 to 24.09.2024 and interested parties may refer the same and interested parties may refer the same. A bidder participating in the auction shall be deemed to have full knowledge of the aforesaid terms and conditions of sale. Last date of submission of the Bid is 24.09.2024.

Place: Muzaffarpur
Date:19.09.2024

SD/- Authorized Officer IDBI Bank, Muzaffarpur Branch

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Tel. 7325058829 E-mail : - vegfedranchi87@gmail.com

e-TENDER NOTICE

Tender Notice No. vegfed/2024/Cld/Strg/02 Date : 13.09.2024

SL No.	Name of Work	No. of Unit	EMD (in Rs.) for each cold storage	Tender Fee (for each cold storage)
1	Operation, Maintenance and Management of 5000 MT Cold Storage at various District like- Palamu, Garhwa, Dumka (Jarmundi), Dumka (Jama), West Singhbhum, Saraikela-Kharsawan, Jamtara in Jharkhand	Palamu - 1 Garhwa - 1 Dumka - 2 West Singhbhum -1 Saraikela-Kharsawan- 1 Jamtara - 1	Rs. 1,00,000.00	Rs. 1000.00
2	Date of Publication on website	14.09.2024 at 11:00 AM		
3	Pre-bid Meeting	20.09.2024 at 11:30 AM		
4	Last Date & Time of submission of Bids	30.09.2024 upto 05:00 PM		
5	Name & Address of Office Inviting Tender	Managing Director, VEGFED, Ranchi 4th Floor, Pashupalan-cum-Co-operative Building, Near Singh More, Hesag, Hatia, Ranchi-834003		
6	Name & Contact No. of Procurement Officer	Sabir Ansari 99359504012		

7. Bid document with details terms and conditions will be available online on e-tendering Portal http://Jharkhandtenders.gov.in from 14.09.2024 at 11:00 AM to 30.09.2024 upto 05:00 PM. Bid must be submitted online only at the e-tendering Portal http://Jharkhandtenders.gov.in on or before 30.09.2024. Tender fee and EMD will be received through online mode only. Bidders can use internet banking facilities for faster processing of Tender fee and EMD. Alternatively, bidders can use NEFT/RTGS challan generated for the tender from http://Jharkhandtenders.gov.in portal. Technical bid received online will be opened at 11:30 AM on 04.10.2024.

8. Corrigendum /Amendment if any will be published only on the above mentioned website.

SD/-
(Abhinav Mishra)

Managing Director,VEGFED Ltd., Ranchi

PR.NO.335927 Co-opretive(24-25):D

NORTH EASTERN RAILWAY

E-Tendering Tender Notice

Open e-tenders on "Single Packet System" through E-Tender notice No. M_249_2_1_CNW-Misc_KGM_WP are invited by Sr. Divisional Mechanical Engineer (C&W), N.E. Railway, Izatnagar for and on behalf of President of India for the following work:- Name of work : "Replacement of Watering hydrant pipe line of Washing pit & Maintenance of Drain cover for Drain at Kathgodam station of Izatnagar Division". Estimated Value of work (Rs.): Rs. 55400.00, Cost of tender from-NIL, Period of work- 90 Days from the date of issue of L.O.A. Date and time for closing of E-tender : 09.10.2024 at 15.00 Hrs. • Tenderer may submit their E-Tenders online up to 15.00 Hrs. on 09.10.2024 • Please go to the Indian railway website www.reps.gov.in to see the complete details and upload/submit the E-tender.

DME (C&W), N.E. Railway, Izatnagar

"Never travel on roof and foot boards"

EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY

NOTICE FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI)

For Selection and Engagement of Consultancy Services for Logistics Market study and identification of feasible Freight Terminals/other facilities for increasing Rail coefficient over East Central Railway.

Interested Consultants having expertise in commercial, technical & financial area may approach to the undersigned with their budgetary quote for professional fees of above consultancy works within 30 days from the date of publication of this notice. Applications from interested consultants should be submitted in the prescribed format with supporting documents online on ECR portal ecr.indianrailways.gov.in. (Hajipur H.Q.>Commercial>Freight Marketing).

Scope of work of consultant and application format may be seen on website of ECR ecr.indianrailways.gov.in.

ECR reserves the right to accept or to reject any or all the applications without assigning reasons therefore and no correspondence shall be entertained in this regard.

Principal Chief Commercial Manager/ ECR/Hajipur

PR/01143/HQ/Comml/N/24-25/48

WESTERN RAILWAY-RAJKOT DIVISION

VARIOUS WORKS

E-Tender Notice No. 22 of 2024-25 date 13/09/2024. Office Address: Divisional Railway Manager, (Engg.), Western Railway, Kothi Compound, Rajkot, Gujarat - 360001. Website: www.reps.gov.in

Sr. No. 1: e-Tender No.: DRM-RJT-2024-25-E-51. Name of Work: Rajkot Division: Repairs of height gauge and fencing in various Level crossings under jurisdiction of Sr. Divisional Engineer (East) Rajkot. Approximate NIT Cost: ₹ 2,56,68,028.67 Earnest Money: ₹ 2,78,400.00. Sr. No. 2: e-Tender No.: DRM-RJT-2024-25-E-52. Name of Work: Rajkot Division - Providing OH Tank at Surendranagar (2.5 Lakh), Morbi (1 Lakh), Bhajiyas (1 Lakh) and Wankarnar (1 Lakh) litter with Pipe line. Approximate NIT Cost: ₹ 2,07,29,252.89 Earnest Money: ₹ 2,53,700.00 For above all tenders: Date & Time of Opening of Tender: 04/10/2024, 15:00 Hrs.

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epaper.indianexpress.com

7 Govt & Politics



DELHI **CONFIDENTIAL**



MIND YOUR SLOGANS

ADDRESSING A gathering at a book release event in the national capital on Wednesday, RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat was greeted by the audience with “Jai Shri Ram” and “Bharat Mata Ki Jai” slogans. He, however, began his speech with a word of caution, saying, “See, everything has a place. Slogans also have a place. This isn’t the place.” The Sarsangchalak’s viewpoint was greeted with cheers by the audience.

SACRIFICE, SACRIFICE

THE SEAT-SHARING talks between the Congress and Samajwadi Party for the upcoming bypolls in Uttar Pradesh where 10 Assembly seats are vacant may take longer than expected. Insiders say after a stellar performance in the Lok Sabha elections, both parties are full of confidence and unwilling to back down. The SP was also eyeing the Julana seat in Haryana for a senior leader’s son but it “sacrificed” the seat after wrestler Vinesh Phogat chose it for her electoral debut. Now, the SP leadership is hopeful of a similar “sacrifice” from the Congress in the UP bypolls.

HARYANA DEBUT

WHEN BAHUJAN Samaj Party (BSP) national coordinator Akash Anand, who is also seen as the political heir of party president Mayawati, held his first solo rally for the Haryana polls on Wednesday, he was carrying an iPad in which he had pointers for his speech. Sources in the party said Akash, an MBA from London, compiles the pointers himself. During his speech, he placed the iPad on the dais and the outer cover had election symbols of the BSP and its ally INLD on it.

In Cong manifesto, ₹2,000 for women, free treatment up to ₹25 lakh, caste census

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
CHANDIGARH, SEPTEMBER 18

THE CONGRESS Wednesday released its manifesto for the Haryana Assembly elections announcing seven guarantees including free medical treatment upto ₹25 lakh, 300 units of free electricity, ₹2,000 per month to women, 100 square-yard plots to poor families, restoration of old pension scheme, a legal guarantee for minimum support price (MSP) on crops, and a caste survey.

Releasing the manifesto, Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge said the “Saat Vaade” focus on empowerment of women, strengthening social security, secure future for the youth, welfare of families, houses for the poor, farmers’ welfare, and rights to the backward classes. “We will implement these guarantees and that is why we have named it ‘Saat Vaade, Pakke Irade’.

Under first head, we are promising ₹2,000 to every woman between 18-60 years of age and LPG cylinders for ₹500. Modi ji’s government keeps increasing (LPG) prices, but we will continue to reduce them,” said Kharge.

The Congress promised 2 lakh permanent government jobs and an addition-free Haryana. Kharge said: “The annual income cap for ‘creamy layer’ for the OBCs will be en-



Cong leaders Singh Hooda and Mallikarjun Kharge. *PTI*

hanced to ₹10 lakh”. The BJP government had enhanced the ceiling for creamy layer from an ₹6 lakh to ₹8 lakh and introduced a 5 per cent quota for the OBC-B category in Panchayati Raj Institutions and municipalities. Kharge said that to strengthen social security, the party has promised a ₹6,00,000 per month pension for the elderly, disabled, and widows, and reinstating the old pension scheme. He said that each household will get 300 units of free electricity. “We guarantee free medical treatment up to ₹25 lakh for each family,” Kharge said. “Farmers had been demanding a legal guarantee for MSP. We have included it in our manifesto.”

“In Haryana, once we form the government, we will get a caste survey done. We aim to identify all the castes, where they stand,” he said.

CONSTRUCTION OF SPACE STATION ALSO APPROVED

Space programme boost: Govt nod for Venus mission, Chandrayaan-4

ANONNA DUTT
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 18

THE UNION government Wednesday approved four big-ticket space projects, including the next mission to the Moon — Chandrayaan-4 — and the first mission to the planet Venus. The union cabinet also gave its nod to the construction of Bharatiya Antariksh Station (BAS), India’s own space station, which has now been made part of the Gaganyaan human spaceflight programme.

Clearance to the development of a reusable rocket, called Next Generation Launch Vehicle, or NGLV, was the fourth decision related to space sector.

These approvals are in line with the space agency’s Vision 2047, which envisages a fully functional space station BAS by 2035 and landing human beings on Moon by 2040. “All the missions



ISRO Chairman S Somnath during a media briefing on the Cabinet decisions, in New Delhi on Wednesday. *PTI*

are time-bound and there has been good progress on all of these,” Railways Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said while announcing the cabinet decisions.

The Venus mission, tentatively called Shukrayaan, would cost ₹1,236 crore, with the Indian Space Research Organisation

(ISRO) aiming for a March 2028 launch. This will be India’s first mission to Venus and the second to a planetary body, following the 2013 Mars Orbiter Mission. The mission to Venus will study the surface of planet, its dust and cloud, volcanism, its atmosphere and ionosphere, and its interaction with the sun.

The Chandrayaan-4 mission, which is supposed to bring back samples from the Moon, will entail a cost of ₹2,014 crore. As reported by *The Indian Express* earlier, Chandrayaan-4 mission will use five different modules and two different launches. The mission will also see docking and undocking — two spacecraft aligning and coming together in orbit — that India hasn’t attempted so far.

Follow-up activities on the Gaganyaan mission, including the setting up of BAS space station, will require an additional cost of

₹11,170 crore. The total budget for Gaganyaan mission now stands at ₹20,193 crore. The extended Gaganyaan mission will now see eight missions, including the three that were already planned for the first manned mission.

“The full-fledged space station is planned by 2035, but the first station will be launched by 2028. There is a limitation of the capacity of the launch vehicle, so we have proposed till the first module. The remaining will be done once the NGLV comes up,” ISRO chairman Somanath said.

NGLV is designed to enhance ISRO’s launch capacity from the current 10 tonnes to the low earth orbit to 30 tonnes. This launch vehicle is one of the requirements for setting up the BAS. The project will cost ₹8,239 crore and the first launch is expected to take place in 84 months. **FULL REPORT ON www.indianexpress.com**

Govt approves ₹24,475 cr subsidy on P&K fertilisers for rabi season

New Delhi: The Centre on Wednesday approved the proposal of the Nutrient Based Subsidy (NBS) rates for Phosphatic and Potassic (P&K) fertilisers for rabi season for the period from October 1, 2024 to March 31, 2025. As per an official statement, the tentative budgetary requirement for the NBS is estimated at ₹24,475.53 crore during the rabi season 2024.

The Union Cabinet approved a proposal of the Ministry of Chemicals & Fertilisers for fixing the NBS rates for the rabi season.

The move is aimed at ensuring availability of fertilisers to farmers at “subsidised, affordable and reasonable prices”. **ENS**

Scheme for tribal groups gets outlay of ₹79,156 crore

New Delhi: The Union Cabinet Wednesday approved the Pradhan Mantri Janatiya Unnat Gram Abhiyan with a total outlay of ₹79,156 crore.

According to a statement, of the total outlay, ₹56,333 crore will be the Central share and Rs 22,823 crore States’. The initiative, it said, will cover “around 63,000 villages benefiting more than 5 crore tribal people as announced in the Budget Speech. It will cover 549 districts. **ENS**

Cabinet clears centre of excellence for animation, visual effects, gaming

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 18

THE UNION Cabinet Wednesday cleared the proposal of establishing the National Centre of Excellence (NCoE) for Animation, Visual Effects, Gaming, Comics and Extended Reality (AVGC-XR) in Mumbai as a Section 8 Company under the Companies Act, 2013.

The Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry and the Confederation of Indian Industry representing industry bodies will be partners with the Government of India for this project.

Setting up of an AVGC Task



Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw in New Delhi on Wednesday. *PTI*

Force in the country had featured in the budget announcement of 2022-23.

Industry experts told *The Indian Express* that this is a welcome move especially at a time the industry is going through a

major shift in terms of the way content is created, the kind of content being made and the way it is consumed.

Rajan Navani, Co-chair of the Media and Entertainment Council at CII and Chairman of JetSynthesis Ltd told *The Indian Express* that the big levers driving the future of media are rapidly changing consumer behaviours, new age creator economy and disruptive technology.

“At a time like this, the NCoE will go a long way in mapping the future and inculcating the necessary skills needed for people to participate in this large global industry so that India can capitalise on this shift that is happening,” he said.

₹35k crore allocated for PM-AASHA

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 18

THE UNION Cabinet approved the continuation of schemes of PM-AASHA Wednesday to provide remunerative prices to farmers and control price volatility of essential commodities for consumers.

According to an official statement, the compensation of difference between MSP and sale/modal price to be borne by the Centre was “limited to 15% of MSP” under the Price Deficit Payment Scheme, one of three

components of the PM-AASHA.

“The total financial outgo will be ₹35,000 crore during 15th Finance Commission Cycle up to 2025-26,” it said. As per the existing PDPS guidelines, “The farmer would be paid the difference between the MSP and the monthly modal price/actual sale price subject to a maximum of 25% of the MSP value based on MSP notified for the year/season.”

“The Government has converged the Price Support Scheme (PSS) and Price Stabilization Fund (PSF) schemes in PM-AASHA to serve farmers

and consumers more efficiently... PM-AASHA will now have the components of PSS, PSF, Price Deficit Payment Scheme (PDPS) and Market Intervention Scheme (MIS),” it said.

To encourage states to come forward for implementation of PDPS as an option for notified oilseeds, the statement said, the coverage has been enhanced from existing 25% of state production of oilseeds to 40% and also enhanced the implementation period from 3 months to 4 months. **FULL REPORT ON www.indianexpress.com**

At first solo rally in Haryana, Akash Anand targets Cong: ‘Anti-Dalit, anti-reservation’

LALMANI VERMA
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 18

ADDRESSING HIS first solo election rally in Haryana, Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) No. 2 Akash Anand Wednesday went after the Congress, calling the party “anti-reservation”, its chief Mallikarjun Kharge a “sycophant” and senior leader Rahul Gandhi a “traitor” to the cause of Dalits.

At the rally in Jagadhri Assembly constituency, Anand claimed that Kharge, in a recent statement, had ignored the role of BR Ambedkar in the introduction of affirmative action.

“Kanshiram ji had given a name for such persons... If the

Congress president ignores the works of Babasaheb despite himself belonging to the SC community, then what is he to the Congress?” the BSP national coordinator asked. The crowd responded: “Chamcha (sycophant).”

Kharge had said that “the Scheduled Caste Community got reservation through Baba Saheb Ambedkar’s Poona Pact” and that later, Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru and Mahatma Gandhi continued the reservation policy. He was responding in August to the Supreme Court verdict on the sub-classification of Scheduled Castes (SC) and Scheduled Tribes (ST).

Anand on Wednesday also said that Rahul Gandhi, the Leader



BSP leader Akash Anand in Haryana on Wednesday. *X/@AnandAkash_BSP*

of Opposition in Lok Sabha, campaigned for the Lok Sabha elections with a copy of the Constitution but “went missing” after the sub-classification verdict. “He went abroad (the US) and said that he will end reservation when

the situation is favourable for him,” Anand claimed.

During an interaction with students at Georgetown, Gandhi had drawn attention to the lack of representation for Dalits and backward castes in government. “We will think of ending reservation when India is a fair place. And India is not a fair place,” he had said.

Anand also targeted the BJP, though his rhetoric was much milder when compared to his speeches against the party in the Lok Sabha election run-up. At the time, his aunt Mayawati had removed him as not only the party’s national coordinator but also her designated “successor”.

FULL REPORT ON www.indianexpress.com

Trump says Modi to meet him during US visit, calls India ‘big’ tariff ‘abuser’

LALIT K JHA & YOSHITA SINGH
WASHINGTON, NEW YORK, SEPTEMBER 18

FORMER PRESIDENT Donald Trump has said Prime Minister Narendra Modi will meet him next week during his upcoming three-day visit to the US. While the Republican presidential candidate slammed India as an “abuser” on the issue of import tariffs, he described Modi as a “fantastic man”.

PM Modi will visit the US from September 21 to 23.

Speaking Tuesday at his first public appearance following the apparent assassination attempt, Trump said Modi will meet him next week when he is in the US.

“So when India, which is a very big abuser. He (Modi) happens to be coming to meet me next week, and Modi, he’s fantastic. I mean, fantastic man. A lot of these leaders are fantastic,” Trump said, reiterating that India imposes heavy tariffs on imports. The former president revealed the information as he spoke about trade and tariffs while responding to a question at a town hall meeting in Flint, Michigan.

He went on to say, “These people are the sharpest people. They’re not a little bit backwards... You know the expression, they’re at the top of their game, and they use it against us. But India is very tough. Brazil is very tough... China is the toughest of all, but we were taking care of China with the tariffs.”

“So we’re going to do a reciprocal trade. If anybody charges us 10 cents, if they charge us \$2, if they charge us a hundred per cent, 250, we charge them the



Trump at a rally in Flint, Michigan, on Tuesday. *Reuters*

same thing. And what’s going to happen? Everything’s going to disappear, and we’re going to end up having free trade again. And if it doesn’t disappear, we’re going to take in a lot of money,” he said.

In New Delhi, when asked about Trump’s comment, the Ministry of External Affairs did not respond.

Modi will begin his trip with the Quad Leaders’ Summit being hosted by President Joe Biden in Wilmington, Delaware. The summit will be attended by Prime Minister Anthony Albanese of Australia and Prime Minister Fumio Kishida of Japan.

Modi will then travel to New York and address a mega community event in Long Island on September 22. He will address world leaders at the landmark Summit of the Future event at the UN headquarters the next day.

Modi’s visit comes less than two months before the US heads into presidential elections with Trump and Democratic presidential nominee Vice President Kamala Harris in the race for the top job. The US elections will take place on November 5. **PTI**

Remotely piloted plane leased by Navy faces ‘technical failure’; detailed report sought

AMRITA NAYAK DUTTA
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 18

ONE OF the two MQ-9B High-Altitude Long-Endurance (HALE) Remotely Piloted Aircraft (RPA), leased by the Navy from the US-based General Atomics (GA) in 2020, had to carry out a controlled ditching at sea off Chennai on Wednesday after it encountered a “technical failure” while on a routine surveillance mission.

The Navy had leased the two RPAs from the US-based GA in 2020 in the aftermath of the Galwan Valley clashes in eastern Ladakh.

As per the Navy, the RPA was operating from INS Rajali, Arakkonam near Chennai, and encountered a technical failure at about 1400 hrs Wednesday while it was on a routine surveillance mission.

The RPA, it said, could not be reset in flight. It was navigated to a safe area over sea and carried out a controlled ditching at sea off Chennai, the Navy said, adding that a detailed report has been sought from the Original Equipment Manufacturer.

The development comes at a time when India is learnt to have made significant progress in the ongoing negotiations with the US on various aspects of the deal to procure 31 MQ-9B High-Altitude Long-Endurance (HALE)

UAVs. One of them is to have a greater percentage of indigenous content in the UAVs.

The MQ-9Bs, to be assembled in India, will enhance the ISR (intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance) capabilities of India’s armed forces. They can also carry out precision strikes on strategic targets in mountains and the maritime domain during long-endurance missions.

GA will also establish a Comprehensive Global MRO facility in India to support India’s long-term goals to boost indigenous defence capabilities, a joint statement issued by India and the US earlier had said.

During Defence Minister Rajnath Singh’s official visit to the US last month, India and the US have agreed to advance priority co-production projects, including jet engines, unmanned platforms, munitions and ground mobility systems, under the US-India Roadmap for Defence Industrial Cooperation.

The acquisition of the MQ-9B—16 Sky Guardian and 15 Sea Guardian HALE RPAs for the Indian Armed Forces from the US through the Foreign Military Sale (FMS) route was cleared by the Defence Acquisition Council in June and was among the key announcements made in the defence sector during Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s State visit to the US in June.

BJP fielded 7 Muslims in last 5 Haryana polls; none won, but helped vote share in Mewat

LALMANI VERMA
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 18

IN THE last five Haryana Assembly elections, the BJP fielded just seven Muslim candidates, none of whom won. However, these nominees did better than the Hindu candidates who had previously contested from these constituencies in the Muslim-dominated Mewat region in south Haryana, with the party’s vote share going up substantially, according to an analysis of past poll results.

This indicates that the BJP, despite its core ideology of Hindutva and perception as a party not aligned with minority interests, remains a choice for Muslim voters in Mewat. The party has a substantial voter base in the region that it successfully taps into when it fields Muslim candidates.

In the coming Assembly elections, two of the ruling BJP’s 90 candidates are from the Muslim community: Naseem Ahmed and Mohammad Aizaz Khan. While Ahmed will contest from Ferozepur Jhirka, where more than 80% of the voters are

Muslim, Aizaz Khan is contesting from Punahana, where nearly 88% of the voters are Muslim. Both these Assembly constituencies are in the Muslim-dominated Nuh district in southern Haryana’s Mewat region.

In Ferozepur Jhirka, the 2009 Assembly polls saw the BJP’s Hindu candidate win just 5.29% of the vote share. But in 2014, when the party fielded a Muslim leader from the state, it managed to increase its vote share to 12.09%. That year, Naseem Ahmed was the Indian National Lok Dal’s (INLD) candidate and



Mohammad Aizaz Khan (left) and Naseem Ahmed, BJP candidates for the forthcoming polls

he managed to win with a 29.47% vote share. In 2019, Ahmed was the BJP candidate

from the state and though he managed to increase his vote share to 32.4%, he finished second behind the Congress’s Mamman Khan who had a 57.62% vote share.

In Punahana, though the BJP fielded a Muslim in the 2009 polls, the party got only 1.03% of the vote share. In the 2014 polls, another Muslim candidate increased the party’s vote share to 21.67%, finishing not far behind winner Rahish Khan who had a 29.56% vote share and INLD’s Mohammad Ilyas who got 26.85% of the votes. In 2019,

when the BJP replaced him with Nauksham Chaudhary, a Hindu candidate, the party’s vote share fell to 17.65%, with the party again finishing third. Hoping for a reversal, the party has gone with a Muslim face this time.

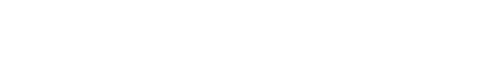
In the Nuh Assembly seat, where 70% of the voters are Muslim, the BJP fielded a Muslim candidate in 1991 but only managed a 7.84% vote share and a fifth-place finish. In 2005, the next time it contested in Nuh, the party fielded another Muslim candi-

date but the vote share fell to 1.21%. In 2009, when it fielded Sanjay Singh, a Hindu, in this seat, the vote share jumped to 19.61% and it finished as the runner-up. In 2014, Singh again contested and bagged 19.75% of the votes but failed to win. In 2019, the party fielded a Muslim instead and managed to almost double its vote share to 38.55%, just behind the Congress at 41.77%. For the coming elections though, the party has again reposed its faith in Singh.

On why the BJP’s Muslim

candidates were unable to win in the past, the party’s minority wing president in Haryana, Jaan Mohammad, said, “Earlier Muslims were associated with the Congress and Indian National Lok Dal. But now they are coming close to the BJP. They are receiving the benefits of the welfare schemes without any discrimination under BJP rule. They will vote for the BJP in the upcoming elections and the party will win these seats.”

The Congress claimed the BJP’s “anti-Muslim rhetoric” hurt its electoral prospects.



Assistant prof at Odisha varsity suspended over ‘sexual harassment’

SUJIT BISOIYI
BHUBANESWAR, SEPT 18

AN ASSISTANT professor at Odisha’s premier state-run Utkal University was suspended on Wednesday over allegations of sexually harassing a woman student at his office chamber in August. The action followed a report by an internal complaints panel, which had been formed to probe the matter based on the woman’s complaint. The professor did not respond to calls and messages seeking a comment. “In pursuance of the order dated September 18 of the V-C, Utkal University, which follows recommendation of the Internal Complaint Committee probing the alleged harassment of a girl student, (the professor) is placed under suspension with immediate effect,” states an order issued by the registrar on Wednesday. The panel, comprising teachers of the university and an external member having expertise in law, conducted meetings and collected evidence before preparing the report. The panel, in its report, mentions prima facie evidence of

molestation against the assistant professor, said a senior university official. The suspended professor has been asked not to leave the premises without the permission of the Vice Chancellor. In a complaint to the sexual harassment cell of the department, the woman alleged that around 2 pm on August 16, when she had gone to collect a book with the permission of the professor concerned, he allegedly molested her. She alleged that the professor asked her to sit close to him and touched her inappropriately. When she protested “with all my effort”, he allegedly “held my waist tightly” and continued touching her. She claimed when she managed to escape, “he pulled my legs”. She alleged he told her: “If you liked this then come again. I will help you academically. If you didn’t like it then don’t come, but don’t disclose it to anyone.” On September 17, Odisha Governor Raghubar Das, who is the chancellor of the university, intervened in the matter, and his secretariat directed the vice-chancellor to submit a factual report and an action taken report in the matter.

MP: Pvt school teacher held for rape of 3-yr-old student

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 18

MADHYA PRADESH police have arrested a 28-year-old teacher of a private school in Bhopal for allegedly raping a three-year-old girl student, police said Wednesday. Police said the case came to light when the mother of the student approached police Monday after the school management allegedly ignored her complaint. Acting on the complaint, police visited the school and arrested the accused. The accused has been booked under the BNS and the POCSO) Act, police said.

Bhopal Commissioner of Police Harinarayan Chari Mishra said: “Police acted promptly on the complaint filed by the mother of the child and arrested the accused.” While CM Mohan Yadav promised strict action in the matter, the opposition Congress accused the BJP government of failing to protect children in the state. “...This act is extremely shameful and condemnable. The Chief Secretary has been instructed to constitute a special court for the trial,” Yadav said in a statement. State Congress chief Jitu Patwari said that the state has now become the country’s “rape capital”. -WITHPTIINPUTS

AHMEDABAD HIT-AND-RUN CASE

Minor accused of mowing down security guard let off to take exam

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
AHMEDABAD, SEPTEMBER 18

A MINOR detained in connection with a hit-and-run accident in Ahmedabad’s Bopal area on Saturday — leading to a 34-year-old security guard’s death — was reportedly let off by the Juvenile Justice Board (JJB) for taking an exam even as a manhunt to arrest his absconding father is on, said a police official Wednesday. The 17-year-old boy, whose father is a builder, was driving a Mercedes and had escaped from the spot after the accident, said police, adding that the car has been taken in custody. The deceased, Govind Singh, was on night duty outside Shashwat

Apartments in Bopal with his brother Jaswant Singh (44) — also the complainant — when the accident took place, said officers from the Ahmedabad Rural police station while quoting the FIR. The boy was detained and presented before the JJB on Tuesday, however, was granted “bail immediately by the juvenile court as he had to take exams,” said SP Om Prakash Jat, adding that the boy is pursuing BBA. The FIR says that “the minor was driving the luxury vehicle at high speed and lost its control” subsequently hitting the security guard. SP Jat, however, said that police are also awaiting the minor’s blood test reports to ascertain if he was driving in an intoxicated condition. On Saturday, both guards

Air pollution a risk factor for brain strokes, similar to smoking: Study

ANURADHA MASCARENHAS
PUNE, SEPTEMBER 18

FOR THE first time, air pollution has been found to be one of the top risk factors for subarachnoid haemorrhage, a particular kind of brain stroke caused by the rupture of blood vessels between the brain and the tissues covering it. A new global study, published in The Lancet Neurology Journal, has found that about 14% of the death and disability caused by subarachnoid haemorrhage, or SAH, in 2021 could be attributed to particulate matter air pollution. This was similar to the risk posed by smoking. SAH is one of the three main kinds of brain strokes, the other two being intracerebral haemorrhage and ischaemic stroke. Intracerebral haemorrhage also involves the rupture of blood vessels but bleeding happens within the brain tissue. Ischaemic stroke is the most common type, a result of a blood clot or other blockage in the blood vessels of the brain. The risks from air pollution on brain strokes in general has been known for quite some time, but its

emergence as a main cause of subarachnoid haemorrhage in particular is a new revelation. “Our study has made an important discovery. It has shown that particulate matter air pollution is responsible for 2.6 million healthy life years lost due to death and disability from subarachnoid haemorrhage in 2021, which is one million more than that from smoking, another major risk factor for SAH,” Professor Valery Feigin, Director, National Institute for Stroke and Applied Neurosciences, Auckland University of Technology, New Zealand, and lead author of the study said in an email response to The Indian Express. He said pollutants like PM2.5 damage the arterial cells, thus increasing the chance of rupture. “Just for the illustration of what 2.5 microns is — it is about 30 times thinner than a human hair. It is likely that these tiny particles have an effect on the arterial cells — damaging them directly or indirectly (e.g., via inflammation) with resulting weakening of the arterial wall and its rupture leading to subarachnoid haemorrhage (SAH),” Valery explained. The study also revealed that

the risk of strokes from high temperatures, or heat, had increased by more than 70% between 1990 and 2021, highlighting the role of climate change. It noted that incidents of brain strokes, and deaths caused by it, as a proportion of population had reduced significantly between 1990 and 2021. This trend was visible in India as well with deaths from subarachnoid haemorrhage declining by 34%, those from intracerebral haemorrhage coming down by 29%, and from ischaemic strokes reducing by 13% in this period. The absolute number of brain stroke cases, however, were increasing. The study found that 84% of brain strokes in 2021 could be linked to 23 ‘modifiable’ risk factors, meaning these risks could be reduced or eliminated. These risks included environmental factors like air pollution, behavioural factors like smoking or diet choices, and metabolic factors like body mass index (BMI), blood pressure, kidney function or cholesterol. “The burden of stroke is increasing in large part due to population growth and the rise of ageing populations globally, but also due to increasing contributions from preventable environmental,

metabolic, and behavioural risk factors,” Valery Feigin said. Risk from high BMI had increased by 88%, for example, and that from blood sugar gone up by 32% between 1990 and 2021, the study said. In 2021, the five leading global risk factors for stroke were high systolic blood pressure, particulate matter air pollution, smoking, high LDL cholesterol, and household air pollution. In India, the top contributing risk factors were high systolic BP, particulate matter air pollution, poor diet, kidney dysfunction, high fasting blood glucose, high LDL cholesterol and smoking, Valery said. Professor Kalpana Balakrishnan, Dean (Research) at Sri Ramachandra Institute of Higher Education and Research, Porur, Chennai, said the linkage of air pollution to brain stroke has been uncertain till now, unlike in the case of ischaemic heart diseases of chronic obstructive pulmonary disorders (COPD) where the outcome of misclassification or mediation pathways have been better addressed through studies. “This new attributable burden for stroke is thus very significant for both ambient and household air pollution,” Balakrishnan said.

India abstains from UNGA vote on Israel

YOSHITA SINGH
UNITED NATIONS, SEPT 18

INDIA ON Wednesday abstained in the UN General Assembly on a resolution that demanded that Israel bring an end, “without delay”, to its unlawful presence in the Occupied Palestinian Territory within 12 months. The 193-member General Assembly adopted the resolution, with 124 nations voting in favour, 14 against and 43 abstentions, including that by India. Those abstaining included Australia, Canada, Germany, Italy, Nepal, Ukraine and the UK. Israel and the US were among the countries who voted against the resolution titled — ‘Advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice on the legal consequences arising from Israel’s policies and practices in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and from the illegality of Israel’s continued presence in the Occupied Palestinian Territory’. The resolution adopted on Wednesday demanded that

“Israel brings to an end without delay its unlawful presence in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, which constitutes a wrongful act of a continuing character entailing its international responsibility, and do so no later than 12 months from the adoption of the present resolution.” The Palestinian-drafted resolution also strongly deplored the continued and total disregard and breaches by the Government of Israel of its obligations under the Charter of the UN, international law and the relevant UN resolutions, and stressed that such breaches seriously threaten regional and international peace and security. It recognised that Israel must be held to account for any violations of international law in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including any violations of international humanitarian law and international human rights law, and that it “must bear the legal consequences of all its internationally wrongful acts, including by making reparation for the injury, including any damage, caused by such acts.” PTI

Gauri Lankesh murder case: HC grants bail to four more accused

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
AHMEDABAD, SEPTEMBER 18

THE KARNATAKA High Court has recently granted bail to four more accused in the Gauri Lankesh murder case, citing a delay in the progress of the trial. The order was passed on September 4 by a bench of Justice Vishwajith Shetty. Bharat Kurane from Belagavi, Srikanth Pangarkar (Aurangabad, Maharashtra), Sujith Kumar (Shikaripur, Shivamogga), and Sudhanwa Gondhalekar (Satara,

Maharashtra) are the four accused who secured bail. Lankesh was shot dead by two men on a bike on the night of September 5, 2017, outside her house in Rajarajeshwarinagar, Bengaluru. The SIT has identified total 18 accused/ suspects, including the mastermind Amol Kale, shooter Parashuram Waghmare, and Ganesh Miskin who rode the bike. The accused were booked under relevant provisions of the Indian Penal Code, the Arms Act, and the Karnataka Control of Organised Crime Act.



PRESIDENT IN JAIPUR

President Droupadi Murmu presents a degree to a student during the 18th convocation of Malviya National Institute of Technology in Rajasthan's Jaipur on Wednesday. Rohit Jain Paras

DAYS AFTER REMOVAL AS V-C OF PUNE’S GOKHALE INSTITUTE

Ajit Ranade approaches HC seeking stay on his termination

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
PUNE, SEPTEMBER 18

ECONOMIST AND political analyst Dr Ajit Ranade, who was terminated as the Vice Chancellor of Gokhale Institute of Politics and Economics (GIPE) on September 14, approached the Bombay High Court on Wednesday seeking an urgent hearing for a stay on his termination. Though Ranade wasn’t granted an urgent hearing, the matter is scheduled to be taken up on September 22. Ranade was issued a termination letter by Chancellor Bibek

Debroy after a fact-finding committee found that his candidature does not conform to the established norms set forth by the guidelines of University Grants Commission (UGC). In light of his termination, Ranade had said, “This is truly unfortunate and a shocking decision. For the past two-and-a-half years, I have been working diligently and to the best of my ability, contributing to positive developments in the institute. These results seem to have been completely ignored”. The FFC recommendation as quoted in the termination letter

to Ranade stated, “The Committee, after careful consideration, is of the opinion that Dr Ajit Ranade’s candidature does not conform to the established norms set forth by the University Grants Commission (UGC) guidelines. It is, therefore, legally untenable for him to continue in the role of Vice-Chancellor, as his appointment fails to meet the requisite legal and regulatory criteria for such a position. Consequently, the Committee strongly recommends the removal of Dr Ajit Ranade from his position as Vice-Chancellor of GIPE, Pune.”

Cong: Sad commentary on institutional decay

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 18

FOLLOWING AJIT Ranade’s removal as the Vice-Chancellor of Gokhale Institute of Politics and Economics, the Congress on Wednesday alleged that there is more to this than meets the eye and that it was a “sad commentary on how institutional decay is taking place in an increasingly illiberal atmosphere”. Congress general secretary in-charge (Communications) Jairam Ramesh said that in February 2022, Ranade was appointed as V-C of the prestigious Pune-based

institute and the “selection was widely acclaimed”. “In September 2024, he got sacked on grounds that he doesn’t have 10 years teaching experience as per UGC rules. Isn’t this strange? Surely, this information was available to the appointing authorities two years back,” Ramesh wrote on X. He also said that Ranade is a “highly educated and accomplished personality with degrees in engineering from IIT Mumbai, management (IIM Ahmedabad), and doctorate in economics (Brown University)”. “These academic credentials can’t be bettered... he always maintained his... integrity,” said Ramesh.

JAMMU & KASHMIR ELECTIONS: PHASE 1 RECORDS 61% TURNOUT

Jamaat factor at play as J&K villages that once heeded boycott call queue up to vote

BASHAARAT MASOOD
KULGAM, SEPTEMBER 18

AT A polling station located inside a government primary school at Kashmir’s Kokpara village, Waseem Ahmad (27) can see signs of change. “In the past, this polling booth would record zero votes,” says Ahmad, who is unemployed despite finishing his post-graduation. “But today, you can see that almost half of the votes have already been cast, and it has only been four hours since polling began.” The booth falls in Bogam, a Jamaat-e-Islami stronghold in the Kulgam assembly constituency. It was in this village that the Jamaat-backed candidates organised their first show of strength — a huge poll rally attended by thousands of people. With the banned outfit backing four independent candidates

in the first phase of polls, and 10 overall, its impact could be felt in Kulgam as villages that once heeded the call for election boycott came out to vote. The Kulgam assembly segment is locked in a triangular contest between communist leader M Y Tarigami, a consensus candidate of the National Conference-Congress alliance; Jamaat-backed independent candidate Sayar Ahamd Reshi; and Peoples Democratic Party’s Mohammad Amin Dar. Reshi’s candidature being backed by Jamaat, however, has divided its cadre. So much so that some who turned up to vote were just there to “teach him a lesson”. A 32-year-old in the queue explained the issue some Jamaat supporters have: “This is the first time I have voted — and I haven’t voted for him. He shouldn’t have contested. All these years, they have been preaching to us to



Voters at a women-only polling station in the first phase of J&K Assembly polls, in Kishtwar district on Wednesday. PTI

boycott elections, and now they are contesting themselves.” But Imtiyaz Ahmad (28), who voted for Reshi, said exercising their franchise is the only way to resolve issues. “Over the past decades, dynamics have changed. There is no option left for us but to seek remedy for our

problems through our vote, through democracy,” he said. “If he (Reshi) has realised this, it is good for him and good for us.” By evening, Kulgam had recorded a voter turnout of 62.7 percent. It was 58.44 percent in 2014, and 61.59 percent in 2008. The enthusiasm in Jamaat

cadres witnessed in Kulgam, however, was missing in Pulwama, where the party is backing independent candidate Dr Talat Majeed. Majeed is up against Peoples Democratic Party’s youth leader Waheed Parra and National Conference candidate and former legislator Khalil Bandh. “It is essentially a fight between the PDP and the NC here,” said a former Jamaat worker. “I have not voted for the Jamaat because I feel they don’t have a roadmap for the future.” But for the socio-religious outfit, which came back into the electoral fray after almost four decades, this is a good beginning, said a former member who is now part of the eight-member panel that is running its affairs and is engaged in talks with the Centre. “The beginning has been good. It will only improve in the coming phases.”

ARUN SHARMA
JAMMU, SEPTEMBER 18

DESPITE NONE of the six candidates from the Pahalgam Assembly seat seeking his vote, 61-year-old ex-serviceman Triloki Nath Bhat turned up in the scorching heat on Wednesday at a special polling booth for the Kashmiri Pandit migrants in Jagti Township on the outskirts of Jammu on Wednesday to cast his vote. “I do not have any expectations from any government. No one has thought about us for the past 35 years. The party which forms the government after these polls will also do nothing for us and will try to reap political benefits from the plight of migrant Kashmiri Pandits,” he said. Bhat said none of the candidates visited Jagti Township — the largest settlement of over 4,200

houses built for Kashmiri Pandits in Jammu — adding that they might have thought that the community does not influence the outcome of the polls. “We get water once in 4-5 days and the quality of drinking water is so bad that one can’t even have a bath with it.” The former Army man, who migrated from Pahalgam to Jammu in 1990, visited Kashmir once in 2019. Only one of his three daughters is employed in Kashmir under the PM job scheme, while the two never visited the region. Bhat was among the over 35,000 migrant Kashmiri Pandits who were eligible to vote for the 16 Assembly seats that went to the polls in the first phase Wednesday in four districts — Anantnag, Pulwama, Shopian and Kulgam — of South Kashmir. Like Bhat, 20-year-old Shivam Bhat and father Maharaj Krishan, who cast their votes for the Dooru

Assembly seat, have a similar story to share. A final-year graduation student, Shivam was born in Jammu in 2004, almost 14 years after his parents migrated from their home town. They admitted none of the Dooru picks sought votes but said that they were keen to give a chance to someone who may think about Kashmiri Pandits, especially the large number of educated but unemployed youth among the community. A first-time voter, Shivam, who was unaware about any contestant in his constituency, visited Kashmir for the first time in June. Rajesh Koul and Upendra Krishan cast their votes at the special booth for the Dooru and Anantnag West seats, respectively, as they “didn’t want to waste their fundamental right”. They hoped some leaders would take note of their plight which, they claimed, has been “ignored by all”.

Mpox confirmed in 38-year-old Kerala man who landed from UAE

SHAJU PHILIP
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM,
SEPTEMBER 18

A 38-YEAR-old who landed in Kerala last week from the UAE was Wednesday diagnosed with mpox.

The youth was admitted to the government medical college hospital in Malappuram's Manjeri Monday after he developed symptoms of the disease.

Health Minister Veena George Wednesday said the samples collected from him were tested at the virology lab at government medical college hospital in Kozhikode.

Isolation wards have been readied at 14 hospitals in Kerala, including medical colleges, to tackle any escalation in situation.

The youth had reached home at Othayi village in Malappuram last week. After he developed symptoms, he initially went into self-quarantine at home.

Last week, a patient with suspected mpox symptoms had been admitted to Safdarjung Hospital.

Karnataka CM: Resolved to make drug peddling non-bailable

Bengaluru: Karnataka CM Siddaramaiah said Wednesday the government has resolved to make drug peddling a non-bailable offence attracting a maximum punishment of life imprisonment.

He announced the formation of a Ministerial task force after holding a meeting with ministers and senior officials.

"We will bring in amendments if needed," he said, adding that in case new laws have to be brought in "we will do it." Drug offences should be non-bailable, from minimum 10 years to maximum life imprisonment for those indulging in drug peddling, depending on the gravity of the offence, he said.

Bengaluru accounts for 50% of drug cases reported in Karnataka, and Mangaluru 22%, the CM said.

The task force, he said, will be headed by the Home Minister and comprise Health Minister, Primary and Higher Education Ministers, Social Welfare Minister, Medical Education Minister as members. The CM said that responsibilities will be fixed on SHOs, Deputy SPs, ACPs, DCPs and SPs.

After Pune CA dies, mother alleges 'work pressure', firm denies

MANOJ MORE
PUNE, SEPTEMBER 18

EVEN AS the family of a 26-year-old employee — who died in Pune — have alleged that "work pressure" and long working hours took her life, Ernst and Young Services Pvt Ltd (EY), where she had worked for four months, has denied the allegation.

Anna Sebastian Perayil, a CA who worked with S R Batliboi, a member firm of EY Global, at Yerawada in Pune, had died on July 20 while undergoing treatment at a city hospital. She was admitted after she felt uneasy and complained of exhaustion.

Her colleagues said they were told she had died of heart attack.

The incident came to light only after a letter written by her mother Anita Augustine to EY's India head went viral Tuesday.

In the letter, Augustine highlighted how her daughter was allegedly under extreme work pressure, which affected her health and ultimately led to her death. She also highlighted the "new environment" of the company which could "prove detrimental to the health of other employees in future."

The company, however, denied that "work pressure" could have led to her death.

"We have around one lakh employees. There is no doubt each one has to work hard. Anna

DRDO WORKS TO MEET NEEDS OF ARMED FORCES

Put on fast-track: Psychological test for Agniveers, anti-drone systems

AMRITA NAYAK DUTTA
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 18

FROM FRAMING a basic psychological assessment test for selection of Agniveers to the Armed Forces and developing directed energy weapon systems for killing rogue aerial objects to giving statutory status to certification bodies under it, the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) hopes to complete a set of critical projects this year, *The Indian Express* has learnt.

Officials said the basic assessment test being developed will aid the psychological evaluation of Agniveers selected by the Army, Navy and the Indian Air Force.

It is expected to be adopted by the Armed Forces this year itself as soon as the DRDO is ready with it.

At present, the eligibility criteria for prospective Agniveers are specified educational qualifications that allow them to take

an online common entrance examination. Those who qualify subsequently undergo physical fitness and measurement tests, followed by medical tests before a final merit list is drawn.

No psychological assessment tests were conducted during recruitment, either for Agniveers or regular soldiers recruited prior to the launch of the Agnipath scheme. However, officers undergo a written examination and an interview by the Services Selection Board, where their psychological parameters are assessed.

The Defence Institute of Psychological Research (DIPR) under the DRDO carries out research in psychology for armed forces personnel. Last year, a DIPR-developed psychometric test was tested on a trial basis for Agniveer aspirants at a recruitment rally.

Defence forces personnel serve in difficult terrains for extended periods of time in isolation and work conditions that are highly stressful. A psycholog-

ical assessment test helps assess the mental fitness and resilience of personnel to be able serve in such conditions.

Since the start of the Agnipath scheme in 2022, an Agniveer in the Army died of a self-inflicted injury. In the Navy, a woman Agniveer died by suicide last year and in July this year, an Agniveer with the IAF died by suicide while on sentry duty.

Aside from the test, granting the Final Operational Clearance of AEW&C-KI for the IAF is also among DRDO's priority list this year, officials said.

Named Netra, the platforms are used to detect and track enemy aircraft or UAVs, while enabling operators onboard and on ground to identify, assess the threat and guide interceptors to take them out.

Currently, two AEW&C systems are being used by IAF for various operations after they were granted the Initial Operation Clearance (IOC).

The DRDO is also prioritising

development of a 30 kW Directed Energy Weapon (DEW) system to target and kill aerial objects. This is a niche technology being tested and employed by a handful of advanced militaries.

In the backdrop of small and advanced unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) emerging as a significant security threat, the system uses concentrated electromagnetic energy to combat enemy assets.

Last year, Air Chief Marshal V R Chaudhari had said India's defence industries need to push the development of such advanced weapons and integrate them into its airborne platforms to get the desired range and accuracy. He had said that DEWs, particularly lasers, provide significant advantages over traditional weapons such as precision engagement, low cost per shot, logistical benefits, and low detectability.

The Army has also identified 16 tech clusters comprising subject specialists, each on certain

emerging technologies which are at a conceptual stage. One of them is DEW and counter-unmanned aerial systems. In July, IAF Vice Chief, Air Marshal AP Singh, had said that impetus is also being given in the fields of directed energy weapons, close-in weapon systems and modernising India's aerial platforms and surface-to-air guided weapon systems.

Officials said the DRDO also plans to prioritise development of other key systems this year such as standalone 1-km range Anti-drone High Power Microwave System to take out enemy drones and the maiden launch of the Long-Range Land Attack Cruise Missile for the IAF. There are plans to develop the system for all aerial, naval and land platforms.

DRDO plans to give statutory status to regulatory and certification bodies such as the Centre for Military Airworthiness and Certification and Centre for Fire Explosive and Environment Safety, officials said.

RAPE-MURDER AT R G KAR HOSPITAL



The delegation of junior doctors outside the West Bengal secretariat, Nabanna, on Wednesday. *Express*

Second round of talks remains inconclusive, junior doctors to continue ceasefire

SWEETY KUMARI
KOLKATA, SEPTEMBER 18

AFTER A six-hour-long meeting with the top officials of West Bengal government, the junior doctors Wednesday night said ceasefire would continue as they received only "verbal assurances" on their demands.

The junior doctors have been protesting for over a month after a trainee doctor was raped and murdered at RG Kar Medical College in Kolkata.

"While we appreciate the government's verbal commitments, we are hopeful for a written directive that formally acknowledges our demands. Until then, we will maintain our current course of action," Debashish Haldar, a member of the junior doctors' delegation said after coming out of Nabanna Wednesday night.

The junior doctors, under the banner of West Bengal Junior Doctors' Forum (WBJDF), emphasised that including the verbal assurances in the official minutes of the meeting would have been a "sign of good faith and commitment" from the government.

Expressing disappointment that their demands were not included in the minutes of the meeting, the delegation said they would discuss with their colleagues.

"We could not do the video streaming of the meeting. Many of our friends are protesting day and night and are on the roads. They couldn't be here. So for them, we wanted to include their verbal assurance in minutes of the meeting. However, it was not done... We understand

that government directives take time, but they should have allowed including their verbal assurance in the minutes of the meeting. We lost all hope towards the end (of the meeting). We will wait till directives are issued before deciding on our next course of action. For now, the cease work will continue," Haldar added.

The second round of talks comes two days after a meeting with CM Mamata Banerjee, following which the government removed Kolkata Police Commissioner Vineet Goyal and senior Health Department officials.

With the doctors continuing their ceasefire, they demanded another meeting with the state government over some "unfulfilled demands". Agreeing for the talks, Chief Secretary Manoj Pant sent an invite to meet a delegation of 30 junior doctors at 6.30 pm at Nabanna.

At the outset of the meeting, Pant informed the delegation that the directions of the Supreme Court in its Tuesday's order will be adhered to by the state Government within a stipulated time frame.

At the meeting, a source said, the senior police officers informed the WBJDF representatives about the details of the security audit of the healthcare facilities being carried out by the state government. The chief secretary also requested the representatives to resume their duties immediately. According to junior doctors, their demands included the suspensions of more officials, resignation of the state health secretary and security in hospitals.

Clear emergency plan, dress code in Odisha policy for safety of healthcare workers

SUJIT BISOIYI
BHUBANESWAR, SEPTEMBER 18

DRESS CODE and ID card for all employees and workers, CCTV at strategic locations and a control room to monitor them, well-lit and secure parking areas, and regular safety audits — these are among the measures suggested to ensure a safe workplace for doctors, medical students and other healthcare personnel.

Odisha government Wednesday approved the policy, which emphasised on respectful workplace culture and a clear emergency plan. The move assumes significance in the wake of rape and murder of a junior doctor in RG Kar Medical College in Kolkata.

"A clear emergency response plan should be developed for all health institutions, which may include panic buttons, emergency phones, mobile apps etc to respond quickly to any threat and in emergency situations. A specific phone number can be set-up in the main security control room to report any emergency or security issue at any time," said the policy.

It suggested that the healthcare institutions should establish a clear "incident reporting process" ensuring confidentiality and prompt action on reported incidents.

"Any incident of violence against medical students should be promptly investigated by the



THE MUMBAI FAREWELL

On the final day of Ganesh Chaturthi in Mumbai's Chinchpokli, Tuesday. Around 2.1 lakh idols were immersed in Mumbai over the 11 days of the festival this year, including over 37,000 idols on the final day, civic officials said Wednesday. A total of 2,09,021 idols of Ganapati, Goddess Gauri and Goddess Hartalika were immersed in the Arabian sea, lakes and artificial ponds set up by the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation, officials said. *Sankhadeep Banerjee*

203 IPS officers may face action for skipping Special Foundation Course, warns Centre

MAHENDER SINGH
MANRAL
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 18

THE CENTRE has warned the States of strict action against 203 IPS officers, who have not attended the Special Foundation Course (SFC) at Dr MCR HRD Institute of Telangana, Hyderabad, so far.

In a letter to Chief Secretaries and DGP's, dated September 17, under secretary D K Ghosh said, "As intimidated by the department of personnel and training (DoPT) of the Union government, a Special Foundation

Course, other than Common Foundation Course is to be conducted for backlog officers up to 2022 batch... In this regard, it is to inform that as per records available with this Ministry, a total of 203 Direct Recruit IPS backlog officers from 2018 to 2022 batch have not undergone their Foundation Course so far."

According to Ghosh, as per the Indian Police Service (Probation) Rules, 1954, if a probationers fails to obey any order which he/she may receive from the Central government or from any other competent authority, or if in the opinion of the Central government, he has wilfully neg-

lected his probationary studies or is guilty of conduct unbecoming of a member of the service, he/she may be treated under Rule 11 (3) and 12 (c) and (d) of the IPS (Probation) Rules, 1954.

After including 203 IPS officers from previous batches, there are in total 443 officers. Among IPS officers, as per data, there are around 93 officers of other services also from 2020 and higher batches, and 350 from 2021, 2022, 2023 and 2024 batches.

"...It is intimated that the officer, who do not attend the Foundation Course, who has been nominated for the Course, disciplinary action may be initiated under Rule- 11 (3) and 12 (c) & (d) of the Indian Police Service (Probation) Rules, 1954," he added. He said the details of the course; course coordinator; joining instructions etc. will be sent by the concerned institute to them.

"The expenditure to be incurred by officers to attend the training including transit from current place of posting to the respective ATI and vice versa, boarding and lodging will be as per TA/DA admissible to them as on official tour and will be borne by the respective CCA (for Central Civil Services)/Cadre State/UT (for All India Services)," he said.

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India could produce up to 9.2 lakh Terawatt hr from blue renewable energy sources: INCOIS

ANJALI MARAR
BENGALURU, SEPTEMBER 18

INDIAN OCEANOGRAPHERS have mapped sites along India's coastline having potential to generate energy from blue renewable sources like tidal waves and currents.

Researchers at Hyderabad-based Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS) have developed an Integrated Ocean Energy Atlas, which was launched recently via video conferencing by MRavichandran, Secretary, Ministry of Earth Sciences.

The atlas has provided estimated values of renewable energy which can be generated from either individual or by integrated blue renewable sources from potential sites along the coast. The mapping was done for sites with a resolution of 5km x 5km located along the country's Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ), which covers up to 220 km from the coast.

According to estimates, the Indian EEZ holds potential to generate about 9.2 lakh Terawatt hour (TWh) from multiple blue renewable energy sources.

Speaking about the need for such an atlas, T Srinivasa Kumar, director, INCOIS, said, "The off-

shore renewable energy sources like sun, wind, tides, etc. are not only important but have remained largely untapped. If we are able to use them, it will significantly aid in the energy transition towards a blue economy."

In order to tap these blue renewables, the first step is to know what scope each of these sources — sun, tides, winds, waves, salinity gradient, currents and ocean thermals across the coastline and the islands offer.

To understand it, researchers performed an assessment of potential energy generation based on past 20-30 years of data, obtained from weather models, in-

situ (on-site) and satellites. "This is an important product and a step towards achieving a net zero goal. The atlas will help understand available energy potential sites," said Ravichandran.

This is a first-of-its-kind atlas offering integrated and individual assessment of blue energy reserves across India's EEZ. "This will be useful for industries working in renewable energy sector for planning and decision-making," TM Balakrishnan Nair, head, Ocean Modelling, Applied Research and Services at INCOIS, said.

Anjali Marar is a science communicator at Raman Research Institute



VIKSIT ODISHA @2036

New Initiatives, New Horizons

“Ours is a People's Government committed to realisation of the aspirations of 4.5 crore people of Odisha and the vision of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi for “Viksit Bharat” @ 2047. We aspire to be a 1.5 trillion USD economy by 2047. The state will scale new heights of development by 2036 when we celebrate 100 years of State formation. Odisha's all-round development will contribute immensely to achieve the goal of ‘Poorvodaya’ envisioned by our Prime Minister.”

Chief Minister Shri Mohan Charan Majhi

THE JOURNEY OF 100 DAYS

Finance and Economy

- Budgetary outlay of **Rs 2.65 Lakh Crore** in FY 2024-25 to accelerate economic growth, ensure social justice and empower 'Narishakti' and 'Annadata'
- Viksit Odisha@2036 for Viksit Bharat@2047:** Odisha teams up with NITI Aayog to formulate vision document
- Aspire to be a **1.5 trillion US Dollar economy**

Odia Asmita

- Corpus of **Rs 200 Crore** for promotion of Odia art, literature, culture and heritage
- 'Heritage Development Scheme' to re-develop century old schools

Janajati Vikas

- Financial incentive of **Rs 5,000** per student under 'Madho Singh Haath Kharcha Yojana' to reduce dropout among ST students at high school and higher secondary level
- Habitat Rights granted to six **Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs)**, Juanga in Jajpur and Kendujhar Districts, Chuktia Bhunjia in Nuapada, Saora in Gajapati, and Mankidia and Hill Kharia PVTGs in Mayurbhanj
- 15 new Eklaya Model Residential Schools (EMRS) & 10 new Higher Secondary Schools made functional from current academic year
- For the PVTGs, **43 Van Dhan Vikash Kendras (VDVK)** and **61 Multi-Purpose Centres** coming up under PM-JANMAN
- PM JANMAN:** All-weather connectivity for **73 unconnected** PVTG habitations
- Tribal Research & Development Centre (TRDC) to be established at Rairangpur, Mayurbhanj

Subhadra Flagship scheme for empowerment of 'Narishakti'

₹ 80,000/-

- Rs 55,000 Crore** committed over 5 years
- More than **1 Crore Women** to be benefited
- Rs 1255.57 Crore** already transferred into the accounts of **25.11 Lakh women** beneficiaries

Public Grievances

- Chief Minister's Grievance Cell (CMGC) fully functional from July 1, 2024 after a gap of 16 years
- Chief Minister's grievance hearing to be conducted at Sambalpur and Berhampur in future

Shree Jagannatha Temple, Puri

- Promise Fulfilled:** All four 'Dwaras' of Shree Jagannatha Temple, Puri opened for devotees.
- Inner Ratna Bhandar of Jagannatha Temple, Puri opened
- Corpus of **Rs 500 Crore** for Promotion and Propagation of Jagannatha culture

Health

- Odisha to join 'Ayushman Bharat-Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana' (AB PMJAY) too. 'AB PMJAY' & 'Gopabandhu Jana Arogya Yojana' to provide cashless treatment to about 1 Crore families in **27,000+ hospitals** across the country
- New Nursing Colleges** to be co-located with Medical Colleges at Jajpur, Balasore, Bolangir, Puri, Koraput, Mayurbhanj, and Talcher
- Corpus fund of **Rs 200 Crore** for Medical College and Hospitals to procure medical supplies

Social Security

- Social Security pension for persons above 80 years and more than 80% disability **enhanced** from **Rs 1,200 to Rs 3,500**
- Ex-gratia to construction workers: Increased from **Rs 4 Lakh to Rs 6 Lakh** for accidental death, and from **Rs 2 Lakh to Rs 3 Lakh** in case of natural death

Environment & Climate Action

About **4.15 Crore seedlings** planted under 'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam' campaign, **highest in the country**

School Education

- Under Prime Minister's Schools for Rising India (PM SHRI) **500 primary schools** across the state to be transformed as **Centres of Excellence**
- 'Nipun Odisha' a specially designed Government initiative to promote foundational literacy and numeracy
- 'Godabarish Mishra Adarsha Prathamika Vidyalaya' scheme for ensuring quality education in elementary schools

Higher Education

- MoU signed with the Ministry of Education, Government of India to implement Pradhan Mantri Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan (PM-USHA)
- In line with NEP 2020, syllabus for **40 undergraduate courses** revised
- To improve access to higher education, **18 new government colleges** made operational in uncovered blocks
- In principle decision taken to repeal the Odisha Universities (Amendment) Act, 2020

Skill Development & Technical Education

- Kaushal Bhawan** setup at Bhubaneswar, a specialised hub to offer courses in Hospitality sector.
- Digital Skilling initiative** launched in **30 Skill Development Hubs**, offering **6,000+ courses** to **30,000+ students** in Higher Education Institutions in line with NEP 2020

Water Resources

- Rejuvenation of **Hirakud Canal system** after 46 years, at a cost of **Rs 855 Crore** for efficient water management in Hirakud Command Area
- Forest Clearance obtained for **Brutanga Irrigation Project** with proposed Ayacut of 23,300 ha in the 5 drought prone blocks of Nayagarh district.
- '**Mahanadi River Front Development**' project to be undertaken at Sambalpur and other places for promoting tourism

Housing & Urban Development

- 'AMRUT MITRA' initiative under 'AMRUT 2.0': **60 Projects** of water body rejuvenation through WSHGs
- PM e-Bus Seva: **400 e-Buses** to be operational soon in Bhubaneswar, Cuttack, Sambalpur, Rourkela and Berhampur
- Promoting Ease of Living:** Five important Municipal services related to building plan and trade licence notified under Odisha Right to Public Services Act, 2012
- Celebration of State Level Local Self Government Day has been initiated and Foundation stone laid for **136 Infrastructure development project** at an investment of **Rs 791.61 Crore. 22 Lakh people** to be benefitted across all cities
- Completion of **335 urban development projects** at an investment of **Rs 359 Crore** were expedited and dedicated to the people of Odisha by Hon'ble Chief Minister on August 31, 2024. **17 Lakh people** benefitted across all cities

Agriculture and Allied Sectors

- Rs 800 per quintal** to be paid for paddy over and above the MSP under 'Samrudha Krushak Yojana', around **20 Lakh farmers** to be benefitted
- Special saturation drive undertaken in the state, to include all eligible left out farmers under **PM-KISAN**, around **5 Lakh farmers** to be benefitted
- Rs 1,084 Crore** for revival of **defunct lift irrigation points**
- '**Mukhyamantri Kamadhenu Yojana**' launched for doubling the daily milk production in the state, more than **15 Lakh farmers** to be benefitted
- MoU signed with NDDB for strengthening milk cooperatives and boosting milk production in the state, **1.5 Lakh dairy farmers** to be benefitted
- Construction of the State-of-the-Art Hygienic Wholesale Fish Market at Basta, Balasore

Boost to Trade And Industry

- 19,000+ jobs** to be created from **26 projects** worth about **Rs 5,992 Crore** approved by State Level Single Window Clearance Authority (SLSWCA)
- FDI Park in State Capital Region** for industries like automobile, EV, semiconductor, and IT sectors
- Two **Garment Manufacturing Parks** at Kalibati and Bhuinpur in Khordha District to create huge employment opportunities
- Mega food parks** to be set up to promote ready-to-eat and ready-to-cook products
- Establishment of **11 new MSME parks** and enhancement of existing MSME parks
- Multi Modal Logistics Parks** for facilitating trade and logistics across **8 key locations** planned under 'Connect Odisha' Scheme
- India's first Integrated Silicon Carbide Manufacturing Facility** launched at Info Valley EMC Bhubaneswar
- Setting up of **200 Acre** dedicated **Semiconductor Park** at Aranga near Bhubaneswar
- 10 million sq ft** of plug and play space for tech industries. **50,000 new jobs** to be created in IT/ITeS/Electronics manufacturing sector in next 5 years
- Industrial corridor** connecting Rourkela, Sambalpur, Paradip and Dhamra by June 2027
- Construction of **Workers' Hostels** under Deen Dayal Karmachari Niwas in Industrial Townships of Kalinganagar, Jharsuguda, Rourkela, Bhubaneswar, Jagatpur, Keonjhar and Damanjodi
- Gopalpur Port being developed to **handle 50 MMT cargo**

Rural Development

- '**Setu Bandhan Yojana**': **500 new bridges** to be constructed to improve rural connectivity.
- PMGSY-4:** All-weather connectivity to **1523 unconnected habitations**
- '**Bikashita Gaon Bikashita Odisha**': **Rs 1,000 Crore** for building rural infrastructure and ensuring holistic development
- Around **1 Lakh houses** completed in **last 100 days** under PMAY(G)
- '**Antyodaya Gruha Yojana**': Housing for left out low income households with budgetary support of **Rs 100 Crore**
- In **last 100 days**, Household Tap Connection to more than **1.25 Lakh households** provided through a combination of Mega, Single and Solar Piped Water Supply projects

Youth and Sports

- Allocation of **Rs 952 Crore** for the development of Grassroots Sports, Mini Stadiums, District level Sports Academies, state-of-the-art academies in four zones of the state.
- State of the art **multi-sports complex** planned in Sambalpur.
- '**Yuva Shakti Scheme**' for nurturing youth leadership and volunteerism, fostering culture of sports & sportsmanship. **Rs 100 Crore** allocated

Push For Renewable Energy

Push for Renewable Energy for achieving national Net Zero target

- '**Odisha Akshaya Shakti Bikas Yojana**' launched with an outlay of **Rs 613 Crore**
- '**PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijili Yojana**' to be implemented in the state. Additional viability gap funding through 'Soura Shakti Protsahana Yojana'

Boost to Employment and Livelihood

- Massive Recruitment Drive: **1.5 Lakh Government jobs** in 5 years. **65,000 posts** to be filled up in the first two years and **20,000** by December 2024
- 10% horizontal reservation** to ex-Agniveers along with 3 year age relaxation and exemption from physical ability test for recruitment in all Group 'C' and 'D' posts of the uniformed services of the state
- Lakshpati Didis: 25 Lakh Women** to turn **Lakshpati Didis by 2027**. Allocation of **Rs. 1,162 Crore** for generating economic activities and enhancing the reach of SHG products

Major Government of India Initiatives

- Record allocation of **Rs. 10,586 Crore** for railway infrastructure in Odisha in 2024-25
- Eight New railway projects worth **Rs 19,000 Crore** approved, focusing on unconnected aspirational districts and tribal areas.
 - Bargarh Road-Nuapara Road (138 km) new line
 - Sardaga-Bhalumuda (37 km) new double line
 - Gunupur-Therubali (73.6km) new line
 - Junagarh- Nabarangpur (116.2km) new line
 - Badampahad-Kendujhargarh (82km) new line
 - Bangiriposhi-Gorumahisani (85.6km) new line
 - Malkangiri-Pandurangapuram via Bhadrachalam (173.6km) new line
- Budhamara-Chakulia (50km) new line
- Three more **Vande Bharat Express** trains to improve connectivity of Odisha:
 - Berhampur - Tatanagar Vande Bharat Express (via Kendujhargarh)
 - Rourkela - Howrah Vande Bharat Express
 - Raipur - Visakhapatnam Vande Bharat Express (Connecting Khariar Road, Kantabanji, Titilagarh, Kesinga and Rayagada in Odisha)
- New **National Highway** projects to improve road connectivity and spur economic growth of the state
 - Six-lane 60 km Bhubaneswar-Puri highway at an estimated cost of **Rs 1,800 Crore**
 - 200 km Chandikhole-Barbil at **Rs 10,000 Crore**
 - Four-lane 54 km Khurda-Nayagarh NH-57 at **Rs 1,300 Crore**
 - Four-lane 46 km Kesinga-Junagarh NH-26 at **Rs 1,000 Crore**



WORDLY WISE
A CHAMPION IS SOMEONE WHO GETS
UP WHEN HE CAN'T.
— JACK DEMPSEY

The Indian EXPRESS

FOUNDED BY
RAMNATH GOENKA
BECAUSE THE TRUTH INVOLVES US ALL

PART AND WHOLE

Southern states have powered ahead of others. It will need a far-sighted politics to address imbalances, soften faultlines

OVER THE DECADES, there has been a remarkable change in the states driving India's growth story. Once dominant states have seen a decline, while others have emerged as economic powerhouses. A new working paper from the Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister has examined these trends over the past six-odd decades. On the one hand are states like Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal and Punjab. As per the paper, in 1960-61, UP contributed 14.4 per cent to India's GDP. By 1990-91, it had fallen to 12.6 per cent, and in the years after its bifurcation it has declined even further. Similarly, West Bengal has seen its share fall from 10.5 per cent to 5.6 per cent over the period. The state's per capita income, once higher than the national average, is now lower than it. Punjab's economy, which had benefited from the Green Revolution — its relative per capita income rose from 119.6 per cent of the national average in 1960-61 to 169 per cent in 1970-71 — has slumped thereafter. Its share in the GDP has fallen from 4.4 per cent in 1970-71 to 2.4 per cent in 2023-24.

In sharp contrast is the growth trajectory of the southern region. After the 1991 reforms, the southern states have seized the opportunities that opened up and emerged as "leading performers". In fact, in 2023-24, these five states accounted for roughly 30 per cent of India's GDP. Alongside, the western states of Gujarat and Maharashtra have also fared well during the period. These regions have a significant presence in the manufacturing and services sectors. For instance, the IT sector is largely concentrated in the southern region. These states also account for a fairly large share of factories in India as per the Annual Survey of Industries. And most of the major exporting districts are located in the southern and western states. However, even as the southern states have powered ahead, they have seen their share in the divisible tax pool fall — from 21.1 per cent during the award period of the 11th Finance Commission (2000 to 2005) to 15.8 per cent during the period of the 15th Finance Commission (2021-26). In lower income states like UP, Bihar and West Bengal, transfers from the Centre — which includes their share in central taxes and grants in aid — account for a significant share of revenue receipts. While fiscal transfers are meant to ensure uniformity of public services across regions, the dwindling share of the southern states in tax revenue has emerged as a major faultline in Centre-state relations in recent years.

The concerns of the southern states are not limited to the distribution of fiscal resources. These states are also fearful of structural changes in the Lok Sabha following the delimitation exercise which could see them ending up with a relatively narrower share of seats. These challenges are set to deepen, if they are not addressed with a wise and far-sighted politics. At stake is the poise and healthy functioning of the federal system.

TWO YEARS OF CHEETAH

Creating a self-sustaining population in India's forests will require ironing out glitches, putting lessons to good use

TWO YEARS AFTER cheetahs were introduced in Kuno National Park, Madhya Pradesh, the country has at least 24 of the big cats. These striped animals were declared extinct from India in the early 1950s and the population in Kuno could herald the revival of the species in the country. These, however, are still early days for Project Cheetah. Many glitches will need to be ironed out and lessons of the past two years put to good use before the project can be called a success. Today, all the surviving African animals, introduced to kick-start the project, and their progeny, live in acclimatising enclosures. Cheetahs are free-ranging predators. The test of their survival is in the wild. Creating a self-sustaining population will require weaning away a significant number from protective care. Kuno's last free-ranging cheetah, seven-year-old Pawan, reportedly drowned in mysterious circumstances in August — the eighth adult animal, brought from Africa, to die since the project commenced.

Questions about breeding the big cat in alien conditions have dogged Project Cheetah since its inception — India was home to Asiatic cheetahs, and not the African subspecies that were introduced in 2022. The criticism was amplified after Pawan's death. A Special Investigation Team (SIT) constituted to probe the incident was disbanded in less than a day. The National Tiger Conservation Agency (NTCA), the project's nodal body, has not yet given a convincing answer for this hasty decision. Experts have alleged that the episode testifies to the persistent lack of transparency around Project Cheetah. NTCA has also been called out for shifting goalposts in the past two years. Project Cheetah's original goal, "to establish a free-ranging breeding population of cheetahs in and around Kuno", for instance, has been diluted to "managing" a metapopulation through assisted dispersal.

Course corrections should be par for the course in any project that aims to create a sustainable population of animals from scratch. But the problems ailing Project Cheetah cannot always be termed as teething troubles. A large measure of these stems from the authorities not giving adequate respect to expert opinion. Last year, for instance, a report in this paper highlighted the NTCA's reluctance to take on board the views of the South African and Namibian scientists behind the translocation. Studies have also revealed that the forest department is under-prepared to deal with the ways of the African animal. In the coming months, as Project Cheetah plans to move beyond Kuno to Gandhi Sagar Sanctuary, also in MP, the NTCA has its task cut out.

THE HOCKEY DECADE

It has seen India's dominance in the game in Asia and a resurgence on the Olympics stage

AROUND THIS TIME 10 years ago, when India's hockey team reclaimed the Asian Games crown — the country's first since 1998 — it felt like a seminal moment. The medal came on the back of twin Olympics setbacks — failure to qualify in 2008 followed by a last-place finish in 2012. However, few back then would have predicted the title would mark the beginning of Indian hockey's decade of dominance in Asia and a resurgence on the Olympics stage. In the last 12 months alone, India have added another Asian Games gold to their kitty, gone on to win an Olympics bronze for the second time in a row and, on Tuesday, defended the Asian Champions Trophy title by beating China.

It must be tough for an Indian hockey fan not to feel giddy. The national team has gone from strength to strength, improving in nearly all aspects of the game. In Asia, India's staggering rise has coincided with a collective fall in standards elsewhere, most noticeably in South Korea, Malaysia and Pakistan, where the sport has become a victim of the financial crunch. In this context, for a nation with bigger global goals, India's rise will be judged not by how easily they beat Asian teams but by how consistently they win against Australia and the European heavyweights.

There is vast room for improvement, however, for a team in transition after the Paris Olympics. This presents an opportunity as well as a challenge. If they step up, India can become a world force; if they slip up, all the gains could lead to nothing. The next target for Craig Fulton's men should at least be to reach the semifinals of the 2026 World Cup, a feat they haven't achieved since winning the trophy in 1975. How well they do there could also be an ideal marker to gauge whether India can upgrade their Olympics form in 2028. After a decade of rise begins a period of consolidation.

One election, many problems



MANOJ KUMAR JHA

One nation, one election is meant to concentrate power, reduce political accountability

IN YET ANOTHER attack on the federal structure of the nation and its constitutional values, underpinned by deliberation and consensus, the Union government has taken one more step in its quixotic One Nation, One Election journey. While the BJP-led NDA government pays lip service to "minimum government, maximum governance", its objective has been the maximum concentration of power. The BJP tried to do so first by pouring enormous resources into the election machinery through the illegal electoral bonds. It took money while being in power from corporates with alleged instances of quid pro quo. The whole arrangement amounted to undermining people's power. After the electoral bonds scheme was deemed unconstitutional by the Supreme Court of India, the BJP-led NDA has decided to double down on the One Nation, One Election plank to again browbeat the ordinary voter who wants choice in selecting her political representatives.

It needs to be made clear that we need elections because we need democracy. Elections aid democracy in that they provide a robust mechanism for choice and representation. But there is a whole lot more to democracy than elections, such as spaces and opportunities for deliberation, being accountable to voters, and having the confidence of the citizenry between the elections. However, making elections the be-all and end-all of democracy turns the people's mandate into a five-year season's pass where there are conceivably no to low incentives for the government to engage in meaningful debate and discussion or to be responsive to the voters' requirements and aspirations. Crucially, there is also a very real prospect of citizens being burdened with an unpopular government, with little recourse.

Well-meaning advocates — and more cynical supporters — of One Nation, One Election point to many of the so-called electoral "reforms"' benefits. Let us take them one by one. The first is the pace of governance being retarded by the imposition of the Model Code

While there are some upsides to conducting fewer and shorter elections, they can easily be achieved by making the system more efficient, instead of overhauling or replacing it. The downsides of One Nation, One Election, however, are numerous and serious. One, dominant parties at the national level stand to gain an overall advantage in simultaneously held general and state assembly elections. Two, states may have to contend with unpopular governments when they lose the trust of the people.

of Conduct (MCC). The Election Commission of India (EC) should take proactive steps towards modernising the MCC guidelines in consultation with political parties and civil-society stakeholders. A responsive and strict EC can also very easily address this issue by being proactive in monitoring the Centre's attempt to strategically target voters in states going to the polls. It should also plan and organise the polling in fewer days for all kinds of elections. Readers may recall that polling in several states in the last general elections stretched over an entire month.

Instead of pushing through so-called "big bang reforms", as is the wont of this government, electoral reforms are better carried out in a piecemeal manner. A Commission struggling to conduct the existing system of elections efficiently should bite off only as much as it can easily digest. One of the first steps the EC can undertake is to cluster together more of the state assembly elections. In sum, the problem with holding "frequent" elections is not so much to do with their frequency but with the inefficiency with which they are planned and organised.

One Nation, One Election folks also feel that aligning all the election cycles will save public funds. While this may be partially true, we must remember that an inclusive, accessible, and participatory system of governance will have a cost. The somewhat idealistic question to ask in this regard is: Can a country of India's political and economic stature not afford it? Must we cut corners and impoverish our famed and prized democratic culture? The pragmatic question to ask, however, is: Should we not aim to reduce overall election spending? The excessive amount of money spent during the elections is many times over the legal limits. What have independent institutions like the EC or the Supreme Court done about it in practical terms? Again, the issue is not about saving money but to regulate excessive spending.

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tem more efficient, instead of overhauling or replacing it.

The downsides of One Nation, One Election, however, are numerous and serious. One, dominant parties at the national level stand to gain an overall advantage in simultaneously held general and state assembly elections. Two, states may have to contend with unpopular governments when they lose the trust of the people. This would lead to a situation where democracy is made subservient to elections, rather than the other way round. We have elections to run our vibrant democracy. We do not have to tame our democratic cultures and desires to adjust to the election calendar.

At the central level, it would mean a government that is sure of smooth sailing. This could lead to an abuse of this security, by being unresponsive to the mood and needs of citizens. As of now, the calculus of elections — the need to reach out to various constituencies, to listen to them, to convince them of policies that may potentially affect them — keeps the current government somewhat in check. With most of the independent institutions undermined, this regime seems to be responsive only to voters at the polling booth. Elections are the only time the ordinary voter is relatively immune to its unrelenting censoring or hectoring. That almost all the opinion and exit polls got the mood of the nation wrong ahead of the general election is a testament to this reality. Despite all this, voters went out and spoke their minds.

At a time when the EC and Supreme Court have either looked the other way or dragged their feet on issues that continue to deeply affect Opposition parties — trumped-up cases against the leadership, misuse of agencies, defection, breaking of parties, the list, alas, is long — the idea of One Nation, One Election is deeply ominous and must be resisted. The nation must have elections, but she must have democracy too.

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VINAY SAHASRABUDDHE

AYN RAND ONCE said that ideas are the greatest and most crucial power on Earth. Going by the number of out-of-the-box ideas conceived by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in the past 10 years, one is convinced about the place ideas and new forms of thinking have in his approach. As PM Modi turns 74, it is pertinent to look at this aspect of his personality.

Progress and development have always had a central place in PM Modi's thinking. Conscious of the huge expectations of the people, Modi has reassured them with his simple two-point agenda: Good governance and development. However, a deeper analysis will reveal three strands in his ideas-turned-slogans-turned-programmes/schemes. The first category is that of lofty ideals, appealing to people to aim high and think big, accompanied by an appeal to work towards the mission. The second strand is about conveying the government's approach to the people. The third is public education.

He started with Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat, a project that later became a national integration programme of the Ministry of Culture. The beauty of this slogan lies in the fact that it not only motivates people to work for the welfare of India, but also reminds them that national unity is a prerequisite for making India *shreshtha*.

Right in the thick of the Covid-19 pandemic, PM Modi made a passionate appeal to make India self-reliant, working for an Atmanirbhar Bharat. During the challenging time, his passionate appeal had an electrifying impact, resulting in advancement of the schedules for vaccine-related research. And

A HIGHER GOAL, A NEW PATH

As PM, Narendra Modi has motivated people to think big

The other important strand of ideas mooted by PM Modi involves a thoughtful policy approach. His slogan of Sab Ka Sath, Sab Ka Vikas was a reassuring promise of democratisation of development while extending equal support to all. He added two important parts to this slogan — Sab Ka Vishwas and later, very importantly, Sab ka Prayas. This also reflects his conviction that national development has to become a movement of the people.

now, aspiring India is looking forward to becoming Viksit Bharat.

Another important term, "saturation", mirrors Modi's vision for national development. Underlying the aim of covering all beneficiaries under a welfare scheme, the term is also reflective of the principle of antyodaya where the deprived get top priority.

In his Independence Day address in 2022, PM Modi made yet another passionate appeal outlining what can be described as his national renaissance doctrine. He appealed to people to adopt *panch-pran* — five commitments — to correct what he believed ails this great nation. These pledges start with a resolve to make India great, erase all traces of servitude, be proud of our legacy, realise the strength of our unity and for citizens to abide by their duties.

This emphasis on the country's proud legacy was evident in 2014, when he mooted the idea of International Yoga Day (IYD) and again in 2023, in mooted the International Year of Millets (IYM). While IYD has established the importance of a unique wellness regime based on an indigenous knowledge system, the IYM has promoted a more nutritious dietary regime. His motivational appeals always have a practical aspect. His aggressive advocacy of Swachh Bharat has helped change the habits of the people. Yet another example of his ability to help people relate to great ideas is his Lifestyle for Environment, later given the shape of a global campaign. In subtle ways, PM Modi has also reminded affluent nations of the irresponsible lifestyles of their people.

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Taking the development discourse beyond cliched terms, PM Modi has mooted the idea of women-led development. His approach is direct while asking fellow countrymen to change their outlook. Divyang or divyang-jan, the term coined by the PM, underscores his belief in inculcating self-confidence in people with disabilities. The term aims at removing the inferiority complex, reminds others that disabled persons possess some special abilities, making them perform better than others in certain aspects.

A reflection of a similar approach is found in the term "Aspirational" District/Block replacing the previous term, "Most Backward" District/Block. Calling a district "backward" not just undermines aspirations but also creates a negative mindset.

PM Modi had once said that he wants to work not just to score brownie points but for the larger interests of the people — for *lokhit* (good of the people) and not for *lokpriyata* (popularity). All this makes him a rare thinker-leader.

The writer is former president, Indian Council for Cultural Relations, and a BJP leader

SEPTEMBER 19, 1984, FORTY YEARS AGO

US IN INDO-PAK AFFAIRS

THE INDIAN GOVERNMENT is concerned that Washington continues to share strategic information with Pakistan. New Delhi has asked its mission in Washington for information on the reports that the US told Pakistan that its two reconnaissance satellites could not locate two squadrons of IAF's Jaguar aircraft at their bases, giving Islamabad the impression that India had suddenly deployed its Jaguars. The information turned out to be wrong.

TENSIONS IN CONGRESS

A SECTION OF Delhi Congress (I) leaders is up

in arms against H K L Bhagat, Union Minister for Information and Broadcasting and Tajdar Babar, the newly-appointed president of the Delhi Pradesh Congress Committee (I). About 100 Congress members criticised Bhagat's style of functioning. They said Bhagat was autocratic and ignored the voice of grassroot-level functionaries.

OWAISI REMOVED

THE ANDHRA PRADESH Governor Shankar Dayal Sharma dismissed the Majlis leader Sultan Salahuddin Owaisi as pro tem Speaker and appointed P Mahendranath to the post. Mahendranath, revenue minister in the NTR

Ministry, resigned from the Cabinet. His resignation has been accepted. Official sources said Owaisi was removed since the NTR government was doubtful about his impartiality during the assembly proceedings.

TWO SIKH TEENS HELD

THE AIRPORT SECURITY staff at Chandigarh airport arrested two school-going teenagers shortly before they were to board the Indian Airlines' Delhi-Chandigarh-Jammu-Srinagar flight. They had purchased tickets from Chandigarh to Jammu and the security police got suspicious seeing their general appearance.



Kamala Harris and a caste story

How India’s first anti-untouchability law came about in Kamalapuram, the place to which the US Vice President and Presidential candidate traces her ancestry



MANOJ MITTA

BETWEEN THE EXCITEMENT over the American election and the fraught history of race, Kamala Harris is now a familiar name around the world. The same name with a suffix that is common among places in India, Kamalapuram, hit the news just about a century ago and it was for reasons to do with caste. The otherwise obscure village of Kamalapuram is in the Salem district of Tamil Nadu, the very province where Harris’s mother Shyamala Gopalan was born in a Brahmin family in 1938. Fourteen years earlier, R Veerian, a native of Kamalapuram, suffered the ignominy of being barred from entering a road in that village. “Untouchables” were traditionally disallowed the use of that road as it was located in an Agraharam, the generic term for an exclusive Brahmin settlement. In the unicameral structure of the time in the provinces of British India, Veerian happened to be a member of the legislative council (MLC). He shot off a telegram to the chief secretary of the Madras government, protesting the violation of his civil rights. On April 16, 1924, the Bombay-based *Times of India* reproduced the text of Veerian’s long telegram, under the headline: ‘A Madras MLC’s Complaint: Intolerable Brahmin Tyranny’. In Veerian’s telling of the incident, he intended merely to pass through the “Agraharam public pathway” in Kamalapuram “in order to post letters” at a post office located there and “see” a school in the same vicinity. But “owing to Panchama pollution” (“untouchability”), a Brahmin identified as Monigar Rungier, the village *munsif*, blocked Veerian’s entry into that street. It mattered little to that Brahmin official that there was, as Veerian put it, “no other way except passing through Agraharam” to reach the post office or the school. This episode of “untouchability” triggered a chain of events, including a resolution that was adopted by the Madras legislature on August 22, 1924. The failure of this resolution to make any difference on the ground prompted Veerian to up the ante with a bill outlawing “untouchability”. Given the odds stacked against any Private Member Bill, its journey began with a strategic choice made by Veerian to slip in his anti-untouchability provisions under the guise of amendments to an existing civic law. Even so, to garner support from a legislature dominated by caste Hindus, it took a lot of negotiations and compromises. So much so that when the Bill was discussed for the first time on December 14, 1925, Veerian felt constrained to begin his address with conciliatory noises. “I beg to submit that I am not going to bring in the subject of caste nor am I going to raise the problem of untouchability in relation to caste.” That he had to disclaim what was so visibly the point of his initiative was a measure of the pressure he was under. The Select Committee that had been set up for the Bill deleted a clause empowering all classes to access public sources of water. The ambit of the Bill was thus reduced to the relatively less sensitive issues of throwing open public roads and markets to Dalits. When the Madras legislature passed the Bill on August 31, 1926, Veerian was instrumental in the enactment of the first-ever law anywhere in the country against untouchability. Indeed, the Madras Local Boards Amendment Act 1926 marked a civilisational breakthrough. It outlawed exclusionary practices that had for generations been considered by caste Hindus as a pious obligation to preserve their purity. Besides criminalising untouchability, it prescribed penalties — even if they were only monetary fines. The press contemporaneously noticed the significance of this law enforceable across the rural areas of the Madras Presidency. Praising him for driving home “the social tyranny of the higher castes”, the *Times of India* said: “Mr Veerian deserves credit for drawing attention to the matter and the legislative enactment, which he has succeeded in piloting through the Council, should go a long way to remove many of the social disabilities of his Adi Dravida brethren.” Irrespective of the extent to which it removed the social disabilities of the untouchables in the Madras Presidency, the pioneering contribution of the 1926 Veerian legislation went unnoticed in history. This was despite the fact that it inspired another Dalit legislator in another province, G A Gawai in Central Provinces (which encompassed parts of today’s Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh), to get a similar law enacted in 1933. Instead, in the spirit of history being written by the victors, the credit for breaking ground on untouchability has been given to a leader from the Brahmin community, Chakravarti Rajagopalachari or Rajaji, the legendary associate of Mahatma Gandhi. It was on his watch as Premier of the Madras Presidency that in 1938, a full 12 years after Veerian’s legislation, came what is commonly presented as a trailblazer. The erasure of the Veerian and Gawai



C R Sasikumar

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precedents helped historians sidestep one major deficiency in Rajaji’s enactment. Whereas the Veerian and Gawai laws criminalised “untouchability”, the Rajaji law was merely declaratory with no penal consequences flowing from it. The Rajaji law just declared that no court would recognise any custom or usage perpetuating “untouchability”. Since it did not, however, define any offence, there was no question of any punishment. Thus, far from building on the precedents set by little-known Dalits, the law that was valorised by historians, the Madras Removal of Civil Disabilities Act, 1938, was conceptually retrograde. The unicameral provincial legislature had by then given way to a bicameral system in the Madras Presidency. After the Legislative Assembly had passed the Bill on August 17, 1938, the Legislative Council did the same on December 12, 1938, after a dramatic debate that recalled the Veerian milestone. It was by J A Saldanha who had, in 1929, followed up on the Veerian law with a similar one for the urban areas of the Madras Presidency. He pointed out that in the Bill that had been “brought forward by Mr Veerian”, there was a clause “prescribing a penalty for the infringement of the rights laid down.” By contrast, in the Bill introduced by the Rajaji government, he lamented, “there is no provision for punishing a man who prevents the enjoyment of any of these privileges”. Incidentally, five days prior to this debate, Shyamala Gopalan was born not too far from the legislative building in the same Madras city.

Mitta is the author of *Caste Pride: Battles for Equality in Hindu India*



ADYA GOYAL

THE 76TH EMMY Awards had the misfortune of being overshadowed by its predecessor that aired in January. Not so much for lack of entertainment — more so by the boredom of a jaded audience which has already gone through one Emmy Awards show this year. The sheer number of award shows nowadays also means most of them are essentially glorified watchlists. Hosts Eugene and Dan Levy and the *Only Murders in the Building* (2021) trio of Selena Gomez, Martin Short and Steve Martin, though, were somewhat of a saving grace. While there has been much less buzz about this edition, it has sparked a heated debate online: Should *The Bear* (2022) have been categorised as a comedy show? Given the laugh tracks and obvious nature of sitcom humour, I was inclined to disagree. However, I realised that the problem is not with the Academy’s categorisation as much as it is with our idea of what constitutes comedy. The classic American shows *Seinfeld* (1989), *The Office* (2005), *The Big Bang Theory* (2007), *Parks and Recreation* (2009), *Modern Family* (2009), etc., are very obviously a part of the comedy genre. But many have argued

Some like it darker

The Emmys thought ‘The Bear’ was a comedy. We can’t disagree

that *The Sopranos* (1999), in essence a dark tale about an Italian mobster, is also a comedy. The traditional understanding of comedy comes from Aristotle’s notion of it as a reflection of the mundaneness of daily life. It is essentially an act of exaggeration of an otherwise dull moment. For instance, a stand-up comic satirises and amplifies a small detail of a regular situation to draw attention to its specific absurdity. The laughter is gleaned not from the situation itself, but from the observation of the comedian. On a busy street, look around you at any given moment and you will spot more than one person who takes themselves too seriously. Be it a lawyer rushing to court, corporate workers making their way to the office or a parent hurrying a child to school. There is a sense of the absurd in people believing that their actions are significant enough to really matter (for some, like rich people worsening the climate crisis unfortunately, it may be true — not so much for the rest of us). In *The Bear*, Jeremy Allen White plays the tightly-wound young chef Carmy who has taken it upon himself to save his family’s sandwich shop. He clearly takes himself very seriously, a trait common among those who con-

sider themselves “saviours”. But the conspicuousness of it is funny to those around him who are unable to take him as seriously. This clash of personalities leads to moments of discomfort and a mismatch of moods. That in itself is comical. The other characters, his restaurant partners, sous chefs, love interest, and family, are constantly in a liminal space of uncertainty around him, recognising the preposterousness of some of the actions Carmy undertakes unthinkingly. Does it always merit snort-out laughter? Not really. Is it a comedy nonetheless? Absolutely. There are other kinds of comedy as well — self-deprecating, dark, existentialist humour. Australian comic Hannah Gadsby, in her Netflix standup *Nanette* (2018) reveals alarming details about her life, discussing her sexuality, gender, and childhood that have shaped her as a person. Much of it is disturbing incidents from her past packaged as humorous content for the audience to be able to digest and learn from a person vastly different from them. It is comedy as much as *Modern Family* is comedy. One explores the dark side of being queer, the other tries to spin it as a not-so-serious detail.

Another similar example is from the show *Baby Reindeer* (2024) where actor-cum-writer Richard Gadd divulges the story of his abuse at a comedy show. The Netflix series is inspired by Gadd’s real-life experience of being sexually abused by an older man and subsequently stalked by an older woman. He discusses the visible shift in the atmosphere of the room when he begins the tale of his abuse, but he is not necessarily denying calling the show a “comedy show”. This is not to make light of seriously tragic incidents in people’s lives. Rather, it is to reimagine the space of comedy in our lives. The space it offers to be dark, existential, fatalist or merely amusing. Incidents in themselves are rarely funny, it is the context that decides whether it is comic relief or tragedy. The Bear is inherently an anxiety-inducing show exploring the pressures of running a restaurant. But the recurring failure of the characters to make the kitchen function seamlessly adds a level of absurdity that is so comical at times that it is tragic. And therein lies the irony.

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WHAT THE OTHERS SAY

“With the inability of our education system to bridge the gap between rural and urban education, the poor SEE results should not be a surprise. The students mirror the teaching they get, just as teachers reflect the conditions they work under.” — THE KATHMANDU POST

The leader and his image

Arvind Kejriwal’s resignation mirrors the rise and rise of image-centric professionalism as a distinct idiom of politics



HILAL AHMED

ARVIND KEJRIWAL’S RESIGNATION as Delhi chief minister (CM) can be interpreted in two different ways. The first may be useful to make sense of immediate political calculations. Kejriwal, it seems, has managed to counter the BJP’s aggressive rhetoric of the CM being out on bail. His resignation has given him breathing space to energise the AAP’s campaign in the coming state assembly elections. The resignation episode, in this sense, may be understood as a strategic division of labour. The new CM Atishi is expected to take care of the functioning of the state government in Delhi for a relatively shorter period, while Kejriwal, the face of the AAP, will devote himself to electoral mobilisation. There is another reading of this development. Kejriwal’s resignation, one may argue, will give him an additional advantage to rework his political image — a key feature of his politics since early 2010s. It is a well-known fact that Kejriwal relies heavily on two related sets of ideas — moral supremacy and systemic victimhood since the days of the India Against Corruption movement. Even at that time, he tried his best to carve out a niche for himself as the most committed and morally superior member of the movement.

The BJP, AAP’s main opponent, especially in Delhi, has always been uncomfortable with Kejriwal’s popular representation as a vocal idealist victim. The party wanted to demonise him in such a way that he could not utilise his image of an *aam aadmi* in clear political terms. The Delhi liquor case is an example of this. Kejriwal is aware of the fact that the BJP’s active propaganda will create technical as well as political problems for him. In his typical theatrical style, he resigned to reassert his moral authority. It is likely that Kejriwal might project himself as a victim of authoritarianism in the coming election. These explanations of Kejriwal’s resignation also raise a set of much deeper issues: Do common people relate to the idea of moral sacrifices? Do they accept the self-nurtured positive images of politicians? How do they react to the negative publicity? To understand these questions, we must recognise an important feature of post-colonial Indian public life. Many observers of Indian politics have argued that political elites represent themselves as morally superior to legitimise their leadership claims. This “saintly” idiom of politics is often associated with M K Gandhi and Vinoba Bhave. However, its prevalence as a strategic move for electoral purposes has not been given sufficient attention.

In recent years, national leaders like

Narendra Modi, Kejriwal, Mamata Banerjee and even Rahul Gandhi have made serious attempts to reinvent this political idiom. Modi celebrates his humble socio-economic background to communicate to voters that he does everything for the country. Kejriwal, on the other hand, highlights his image as a victim of a corrupt system. He calls upon the voter to accept him as one of them, an *aam aadmi*. Rahul Gandhi highlights the fact that his family has been the victim of terrorism. He now asserts his new political identity as an advocate of social justice and equality. Regional leaders also raise similar claims and arguments to get political acceptability.

These examples show that despite growing professionalisation of politics, especially its electoral version, this particular idiom is thriving in public life. However, the nature and substance of it has changed in a significant way. Contemporary politicians tend to produce an interesting configuration to establish a balance between their preferred images as dedicated public figures and professional requirements of electoral politics. Kejriwal, for instance, presents himself as a humble and committed public servant keen to transform the lives of common people; yet, he finds himself surrounded by politicians who do not allow him to achieve his pious objectives. Kejriwal’s resignation is an attempt to regain this positive portrayal. That is the reason why he said that he would not assume the role of CM until he received a “certificate of honesty” from the electorate again.

This portrayal, however, does not go well when we look at the internal power structure of the AAP. Kejriwal has established complete control over the party. Internal democracy, which was highlighted as one of the distinctive features of the AAP, has been systematically replaced by a culture of hero worship. Atishi’s initial comments confirm this — she made it clear that Kejriwal is the “real” CM of Delhi and her objective is to help him regain power again. This image-centricity has become an unwritten norm of politics, which is not specific to the Kejriwal-dominated AAP. One finds very similar trajectories in different parties, especially in the Modi-led BJP.

Does this kind of politics work? There is no clear answer. CSDS-Lokniti-NES 2024 data shows that the image of leaders does play a role in determining the political choice of voters. Modi’s image as a poor *chaiwala* helped him secure sizeable subaltern support. The success of Bharat Jodo Yatra contributed significantly in creating a new image for Rahul Gandhi as a radical social-justice leader. This is also true for Kejriwal. On the other hand, the electoral verdict of 2024, particularly the BJP’s performance, reminds us that the image of a particular leader does not always help his/her party to win an election. This seemingly contradictory evidence confirms that image-centric professionalism has evolved as a distinct idiom of politics in contemporary India.

The writer is associate professor, CSDS

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

A WORTHY SUCCESSOR

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, ‘CM Atishi’ (IE, September 18). As the AAP government’s term nears completion in Delhi in February, it will be headed by Atishi, the third woman to reach the position after Sheila Dixit of the Congress and Sushma Swaraj of the BJP. Her main task is to hold the chief minister’s seat for Arvind Kejriwal until he can return to office, depending on the outcome of elections later this year. Kejriwal is currently on bail and unable to perform his duties as CM, such as going to his office, meeting colleagues, or signing files. Having a trusted person like Atishi in charge was his only option. She now faces the heavy responsibility of stabilising the government and ensuring the party’s victory with an even greater margin.

Rhokan Das, Kolkata

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, ‘CM Atishi’ (IE, September 18). Atishi, who holds at least 14 key portfolios in the outgoing Arvind Kejriwal-led government, is likely to be a worthy successor. She played a pivotal role in revamping the state of education in government-run schools in the national capital and also is credited for initiatives such as the ‘Happiness Curriculum’ in Delhi schools. She was AAP’s prominent face and BJP’s fiercest critic when both Manish Sisodia and Kejriwal were behind bars in the excise police case. Kejriwal’s fate now hinges on whether Delhi’s voters still see him as the anti-corruption crusader they once embraced, or as a leader whose luck may have run out.

SS Paul, Nadia

AS DIDI, NOT CM


THIS REFERS TO the article, ‘Mamta, the establishment’ (IE, September 16). The old saying that we become what we loathe has come to life once again with Mamata Banerjee’s recent bungling of the R G Kar case. Having risen as a phoenix from the ashes of populist struggles, Banerjee was touted as the single-most powerful leader in Opposition. The TMC’s high-handedness was noticed in the general elections with numerous reports of booth violence. There was a change in approach when Banerjee called the protestors for a meet-up and projected herself as their “didi”, not CM. A populist leader like her cannot afford to play with people’s feelings. She also needs to realise that her fellow party members have opinions too, which cannot be dismissed.

Ramanpreet, via email

BALM FOR MANIPUR

THIS REFERS TO the article, ‘Manipur: Dark Side of the Moon?’ (IE, September 15). It throws light on the long-term failures of the state on ethnic and governance issues. The fault lines between communities have not been addressed and the Centre and state governments have ignored economic problems in the northeastern state. The government should promote reconciliation between communities and initiate conversations among the affected parties. It should also crack down on those responsible for the more than year-long violence. Manipur needs a balm.

Rohan Naidu, via e-mail



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Tender Inquiry No. 326/CE-IT

Dated 17/09/2024


Chief Engineer/IT, PSPCL, Patiala invites e-tender for inviting tender for getting toll free services to short code '1912' through SIP Trunking technology for lodging all type of complaints of PSPCL consumers of Called Party Pays basis (Toll Free). For detailed NIT & tender specifications please refer to <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in> from 19/09/2024, 15:00 hrs onwards.

Note: Corrigendum and addendum, if any will be published online at <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in>

No. 37794/PB

C-705/24

 GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA HYDERABAD METROPOLITAN WATER SUPPLY & SEWERAGE BOARD O/o Chief General Manager (Engg), STP Circle-I, Khairatabad, Hyderabad-500 004, T.G.			
e-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE			
e-Tender Notice No. & Date	Name of Work	Estimate Contract Value	
No.03/CGM(E)/STP Circle-I/Desilting Trunk Sewers/2024-25, Dt: 18-09-2024	Desilting of 450/600/1000mm dia trunk sewer lines from Old Ramanthapur to Nallacheruvu using latest technology high power suction machine with vacuum of 4000Cum/Hr and above (Super Sucker Machine), carting of soil with leak proof enclosed containers (dumpers) under Project-Div-X, Nallacheruvu.	Rs.199.08 Lakhs	
(1) Tender Documents will be available online from dt. 19.09.2024 from 3.00 P.M onwards. (2) Name & address of Chief General Manager (Engg), concerned - Chief General Manager (Engg), STP Circle-I, HMWSSB, Khairatabad, Hyderabad-04 (3) The Contractors / firms are requested to upload the information in the 'ZIP' format preferably. (4) Further details can be seen @ http://www.eprocurement.gov.in Sd/- Chief General Manager (Engg), STP Circle-I, Khairatabad, Hyderabad-500 004, T.G.			



बिहार सरकार

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संवेदकों से प्रतिशत दर निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है

- विज्ञापनदाता का पदनाम एवं पता :- कार्यपालक अभियंता, भवन प्रमंडल, बक्सर।
- निविदा आमंत्रित करने की तिथि :- दिनांक-13.09.2024
- निविदा कागजात प्राप्त (डाउनलोड) करने की तिथि एवं समय :- दिनांक-01.10.2024 से 22.10.2024 को 15.00 बजे तक। केवल वेबसाईट www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in पर
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- निविदा बिक्री का स्थान :- केवल वेबसाईट www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in पर
- तकनीकी बीड खोलने की तिथि एवं समय :- दिनांक-25.10.2024 को 15.30 बजे।
- वित्तीय बीड खोलने की तिथि एवं समय :- तकनीकी बीड मूल्यांकन के पश्चात।
- प्री बीड मीटिंग की तिथि समय एवं स्थान (i) :- दिनांक-08.10.2024 को 15.00 बजे अधीक्षण अभियंता, भवन निर्माण विभाग, भवन अंचल, आरा का कार्यालय में।
(ii) :- दिनांक-09.10.2024 को 15.00 बजे मुख्य अभियंता (रदो), भवन निर्माण विभाग, बिहार, पटना का कार्यालय में।
- निविदा की वैधता की अवधि :- 120 दिन।
- कार्य का विवरण :-

क्र० सं०	युप सं०	UDISE CODE	कार्य का नाम	प्रकलित राशि	अग्रघन की राशि	परिमाण विपत्र का मूल्य	ई-निविदा बीड प्रोसेसिंग फी	कार्य समाप्ति की अवधि
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1	1	10302100102	बक्सर जिलान्तर्गत प्रखण्ड बक्सर में M.P HIGH SCHOOL में 8 अदर अतिरिक्त वर्ग कक्षा का निर्माण कार्य।	124.8	2,50,000/-	10,000/-	As Per Online Req.	6 Months
2	2	10302100803	बक्सर जिलान्तर्गत प्रखण्ड बक्सर में JAWAHAR MIDDLE में 6 अदर अतिरिक्त वर्ग कक्षा का निर्माण कार्य।	77.82	1,55,700/-	10,000/-	As Per Online Req.	6 Months
3	3	10302101304	बक्सर जिलान्तर्गत प्रखण्ड बक्सर में ADARSH SHISHU M.S NAYA BAZAR, में 4 अदर अतिरिक्त वर्ग कक्षा का निर्माण कार्य।	51.88	1,04,000/-	10,000/-	As Per Online Req.	6 Months
4	4	10302101311	बक्सर जिलान्तर्गत प्रखण्ड बक्सर में S.S GIRLS HIGH SCHOOL में 4 अदर अतिरिक्त वर्ग कक्षा का निर्माण कार्य।	62.4	1,25,000/-	10,000/-	As Per Online Req.	6 Months
5	5	10302108401	बक्सर जिलान्तर्गत प्रखण्ड बक्सर में SAHYOGI M.S NAYA BAZAR में 6 अदर अतिरिक्त वर्ग कक्षा का निर्माण कार्य।	77.82	1,55,700/-	10,000/-	As Per Online Req.	6 Months
6	6	10302504710	बक्सर जिलान्तर्गत प्रखण्ड चौसा में ADARSH HIGH SCHOOL CHAUSA में 4 अदर अतिरिक्त वर्ग कक्षा का निर्माण कार्य।	62.4	1,25,000/-	10,000/-	As Per Online Req.	6 Months
7	7	10301600113	बक्सर जिलान्तर्गत प्रखण्ड इटाही में G.M.S ITHARI में 8 अदर अतिरिक्त वर्ग कक्षा का निर्माण कार्य।	103.76	2,08,000/-	10,000/-	As Per Online Req.	6 Months
8	8	10301500826	बक्सर जिलान्तर्गत प्रखण्ड दुमराँव में RAJ HIGH SCHOOL DUMRAON में 3 अदर अतिरिक्त वर्ग कक्षा का निर्माण कार्य।	46.8	94,000/-	5,000/-	As Per Online Req.	4Months

11. निविदा केवल ई-निविदा पद्धति के अनुसार वेबसाइट (www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in) पर निष्पादित किया जायेगा। ई-निविदा प्रक्रिया से संबंधित जानकारी ई-प्रोक्युरमेंट हेल्पडेस्क, प्रथम तल फ्लॉट नं०-ए/22, रोड नं०-25, श्री कृष्ण नगर, बैंक ऑफ इण्डिया कम्पाउंड, पटना-800001, फोन-0612-2523006, मो०-9939035696 से प्राप्त किया जा सकता है।

बिस्तृत जानकारी www.state.bihar.gov.in/prdbihar पर देखी जा सकती है।

PR- 008240 (B C D) 2024-25

नरेंद्र की मार, बर्बाद करे सुखी परिवार।

कार्यपालक अभियंता
भवन प्रमंडल, बक्सर।

JHARKHAND URJA SANCARAN NIGAM LIMITED
(CIN: U40108JH2013SGC001704)
(GOVERNMENT OF JHARKHAND UNDERTAKING)
OFFICE:
General Manager, Contracts & Materials, Multi-Lateral Funding Projects,
JUSNL Building, Kusai Colony, Doranda, Ranchi – 834002 (Jharkhand)
Email: piujunsl@gmail.com Visit us on: www.jharkhandtenders.gov.in

Second (2nd) Re-Tender Notice

The following NIT is hereby re-tendered due to no bid submission. The Due dates are extended as follows:-

NIT No.	Name of work (Request for Bid (RfB))	Last date of submission/ uploading bid by the bidder	Date of Opening of technical part of Bid
109/PR/ JUSNL/ 2024-25	Supply, Installation, Testing & Commissioning of Left Over Work for 132 KV Double Circuit Transmission lines from 1. Angada - Silli (21.50 KM) 2. Angada-Irba (Sikidiri) (15.15 KM) 3. Irba – Kanke (34.1 KM) 4. Irba – Ratu (54.47 KM) 5. Silli – Chowka (61 KM)	30.09.2024 upto 16:00 Hrs	01.10.2024 at 16:30 Hrs
110/PR/ JUSNL/ 2024-25	Supply, Installation, Testing & Commissioning of Left Over Work for 132 KV Double Circuit Transmission lines from 1. Dumka- Shikaripara (53.43 KM) 2. Amarapura – Godda (82.50 KM) 3. Amarapura – Pakur (18.44 KM)	30.09.2024 upto 16:00 Hrs	01.10.2024 at 16:30 Hrs

PR No. 330526

स्वाहित एवं राष्ट्र हित में ऊर्जा बचाव। कृपया अपनी शिकायतों को
दोसरे दिने नं० 1800 345 6670 पर दायें करावें।

PR.No.335891 Jharkhand Urja Sancharan Nigam Ltd(24-25):D

Sd/-
General Manager
C&M, MLFP, JUSNL, Ranchi



KARNATAKA INDUSTRIAL AREAS DEVELOPMENT BOARD
(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)

49, East Wing, 4th & 5th Floor, Khanija Bhavan Race Course Road
Bengaluru – 560 001. Phone No. 080-22265383 website : www.kiadb.in

IAADB/ENGG/ETND-EP-22/431/2024-25

Date: 18.09.2024

SHORT TERM NOTICE INVITING TENDER
(Through GOK Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Only)

Item Rate Tender under two cover bid system is invited for the work mentioned below as per the Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement Act 1999 and Rules 2000 through electronic procurement from eligible Contractors who have got adequate financial resources, state of the art technology, suitable construction equipments, technical man power & sufficient past experience for the following work as per the schedule given below:

Name of the Work : Formation of Sub Layout including formation of 24m wide roads, 18m wide roads including asphaltting, construction of RCC side Drains, RCC Cross Drainage Works, SWD, HDPE Dual Water Supply Pipeline at Devanahalli Industrial Area, Devanahalli, Doddaballapura Bengaluru Rural District.

The last date and time of receipt of tender is : **05.10.2024 upto 4.30 pm.**

Applicants May Download Bidding Documents from the Karnataka Public Procurement Portal <https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in>.

DIPR/CP/2052/Zen/2024-25

Sd/-
Chief Engineer-1, KIADB Bengaluru

कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय ग्रामीण विकास विशेष प्रमंडल, पश्चिमी सिंहभूम, चाईबासा						
अति अल्पकालीन ई-निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना						
ई- निविदा सूचना संख्या – RDD/SD/CHAIBASA/03/2024-25 (3rd Call)						
1.	कार्य की विस्तृत विवरणी	कार्य का नाम	प्राक्कलित राशि	अग्रधन की राशि	परिमाण विपत्र का मूल्य	कार्य पूर्ण करने की अवधि
1		चाईबासा जिला के सोनुवा प्रमण्ड अलगत ग्राम शशिकला एवं बारानीर के बीच संजय नदी पर पुल निर्माण।	45160000.00	9040000.00	10000.00	18 माह
2.	वेबसाइट पर निविदा प्रकाशन की तिथि – 21.09.2024					
3.	ई-निविदा प्राप्ति की तिथि एवं समय-निर्नांक 21.09.2024 से दिनांक 27.09.2024 को अपराह्न 5:00 बजे तक					
4.	ई-निविदा खोलने का स्थान – कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय, ग्रामीण विकास विशेष प्रमंडल, पश्चिमी सिंहभूम, चाईबासा।					
5.	ई-निविदा खोलने की तिथि एवं समय – 28.09.2024 अपराह्न 5:00 बजे					
6.	ई-निविदा आमंत्रित करने वाले पदाधिकारी का नाम एवं पता :- कार्यपालक अभियंता, ग्रामीण विकास विशेष प्रमंडल, पश्चिमी सिंहभूम, चाईबासा					
7.	ई-निविदा प्रकोप का दूरभाष सं० – 8709623131 (संबंधित कार्यपालक अभियंता का दूरभाष नम्बर)					
8.	परिमाण विपत्र की राशि घट-बढ़ सकती है तनुनुसार अग्रधन की राशि देना होगी।					
9.	निविदा शुल्क एवं अग्रधन की राशि केवल Online Mode द्वारा स्वीकार्य होगी।					
10.	निविदा खोलने की तिथि से 5 दिनों के अन्दर निविदादाता द्वारा अपनी आपति / दावा दर्ज कराये अन्यथा अपघि धीतने के पश्चात कोई भी आपति / दावा मान्य नहीं होगा।					
11.	निविदा शुल्क एवं अग्रधन की राशि का ई-मुगतान जिस खाता से किया जायेगा, उसी खाते में अग्रधन की राशि वापस होगी अगर खाता को बंद कर दिया जाता है तो उसकी सारी जवाबदेही आपकी होगी।					

कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय
ग्रामीण विकास विशेष प्रमंडल, पश्चिमी सिंहभूम, चाईबासा

अति अल्पकालीन ई-निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना
ई- निविदा सूचना संख्या – RDD/SD/CHAIBASA/03/2024-25 (3rd Call)

1. कार्य की विस्तृत विवरणी :

क्र.सं.	कार्य का नाम	प्राक्कलित राशि	अग्रधन की राशि	परिमाण विपत्र का मूल्य	कार्य पूर्ण करने की अवधि
1	चाईबासा जिला के सोनुवा प्रखण्ड अन्तर्गत ग्राम शशिकला एवं बाराधीर के बीच संजय नदी पर पुल निर्माण।	45160000.00	9040000.00	10000.00	18 माह

2. वेबसाइट में निविदा प्रकाशन की तिथि – 21.09.2024

3. ई- निविदा प्रारंभ की तिथि एवं समय – निनाक 21.09.2024 से दिनांक 27.09.2024 को अपराह्न 5:00 बजे तक

4. ई- निविदा खोलने का स्थान – कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय, ग्रामीण विकास विशेष प्रमंडल, पश्चिमी सिंहभूम, चाईबासा।

5. ई- निविदा खोलने की तिथि एवं समय – 28.09.2024 अपराह्न 5:00 बजे

6. ई- निविदा आमंत्रित करने वाले पदाधिकारी का नाम एवं पता – कार्यपालक अभियंता, ग्रामीण विकास विशेष प्रमंडल, पश्चिमी सिंहभूम, चाईबासा

7. ई- निविदा प्रकोष्ठ का दूरभाष सं० – 8709623131 (संबंधित कार्यपालक अभियंता का दूरभाष नम्बर)

8. परिमाण विपत्र की राशि घट-बढ़ संशुद्ध है तदनुसार अग्रधन की राशि देय होगी।

9. निविदा शुल्क एवं अग्रधन की राशि केवल Online Mode द्वारा स्वीकार्य होगी।

10. निविदा खोलने की तिथि से 5 दिनों के अन्तर निविदादाता द्वारा अपनी आपूर्ति / दावा दर्ज कराये अन्यथा अवधि बीतने के पश्चात् कोई भी आपूर्ति / दावा मान्य नहीं होगा।

11. निविदा शुल्क एवं अग्रधन की राशि का ई-मुद्रातान जिस खाता से किया जायेगा, उसी खाते में अग्रधन की राशि वापस होगी। अगर खाता को बंद कर दिया जात है तो उसकी सारी जवाबदेही आपकी होगी।

विस्तृत जानकारी के लिये वेबसाइट www.jharkhandtenders.gov.in एवं कार्यालय की सूचना पट्ट पर देखा जा सकता है।

ह०/ – कार्यपालक अभियंता
ग्रामीण विकास विशेष प्रमंडल,
पश्चिमी सिंहभूम, चाईबासा



FOR MORE LOG ON TO INDIANEXPRESS.COM/ELECTIONS



KEY BATTLE

ON BANSI LAL TURF, FAMILY VS FAMILY, EX-BCCI OFFICIAL PADS UP

Delhi talks on, poll move has core group, nod: Jamaat

BASHAARAT MASOOD SRINAGAR, SEPTEMBER 18

THE JAMAAT-E-ISLAMI group that is contesting the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly elections has termed as "fake" a letter purporting to be written by the main Jamaat, which accuses it of "working at the behest of the BJP".

At the same time, the eight-member panel that decided to enter the poll fray, nearly 40 years after the Jamaat began its poll boycott, confirmed it has been talking to New Delhi for lifting the Jamaat ban under the UAPA.

Panel member Ghulam Qadir Lone released a video message saying the Jamaat would not have entered the poll race if the two recently elected National Conference (NC) MPs had raised their voice against the ban in Parliament. He also said the decision to contest had the backing of the former executive council.

"The Jamaat-e-Islami has made a panel to talk to the government for lifting of the ban... Whatever steps we have taken, (the executive council) gave us the mandate for it," Lone said.

He said they have opened channels with officials so "we can make it clear to them that the ban on the Jamaat was constitutionally, legally and morally wrong". "The second thing we did was to participate in elections and invite others as well... The government admits that the voter turnout (in the Lok Sabha polls) increased with our participation," Lone said. This, he added, shows that, "the people have rallied behind us".

Lone said the panel earlier wanted to contest the elections after the ban was lifted, and had appealed to the government for the same. "Since the ban was not lifted, we consciously decided to join the election process as a voter and back some independent candidates... We are backing them so that they raise their voice for us in the Assembly," he said.

About the claim in the letter that the Jamaat panel he was a part of was working for the BJP, Lone said it was a BJP government that had banned the Jamaat. "First, they should have put their name on this letter. They haven't and it means it is fake," he said.



VOTING IN J&K'S FIRST PHASE ENDS

1 & 2: Voters show their inked fingers in Kishtwar and Anantnag districts, respectively, on Wednesday. PTI; 3: Women queue up to vote at a polling booth in South Kashmir. Shuaib Masoodi; 4: Iltija Mufti, daughter of PDP chief Mehbooba Mufti, in the Srigufwara-Bijbehara seat, where she is a candidate. Shuaib Masoodi

In Valley, Sikh faces pitch for jobs, Punjabi recognition

BASHAARAT MASOOD SRINAGAR, SEPTEMBER 18

MAINTAINING THAT it has been "ignored by successive governments", the minority Sikh community in Jammu and Kashmir has fielded its own candidates in a few Valley seats to ensure "representation of the community" in the Assembly elections.

Five Sikh faces are in the fray in three of the Kashmir division's 47 seats. They include three candidates in the Tral seat in South Kashmir, one in Baramulla in North Kashmir, and one in Shalteng in Srinagar.

While the candidates of the Congress and Engineer Rashid's Awami Ittehad Party (AIP) in Tral are from the Sikh community, the All Parties Sikh Coordination

Committee (APSCC) – an umbrella organisation – has also fielded a Sikh nominee in the seat.

"For the last 25-30 years, no body has listened to our problems," says Jagmohan Singh Raina, the APSCC chairman. "We have decided to field our own candidates. We have already two candidates in the fray (Tral and Shalteng) and are considering backing a third (Baramulla)."

Of Tral's 97,477 voters, 8,800 belong are Sikhs. Here, the Congress has fielded Surinder Singh Channi, while the AIP has fielded Harbaksh Singh Sasan, who recently quit the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) after being denied a ticket.

The APSCC has fielded Pushvinder Singh as its candidate from Tral. As it is not an Election Commission-recognised party,



(Left) AIP's Harbaksh Sasan and Congress's Surinder Channi are contesting in Tral

the APSCC-backed candidates are contesting as Independents.

The 65-year-old retired zonal education officer, Pushvinder Singh is also the vice-chairman of the Citizens' Council in Tral. "We have given immense sacrifices for this country right from 1947 but we have gained nothing," said Singh, a resident of Saimoh in Tral. "Punjabi was one

CONG SILENT, WARY OF BJP ATTACK

As J&K heads to polls, how parties view Article 370

Unlike regional parties, Congress and BJP have not engaged with the subject

NAVEED IQBAL SRINAGAR, SEPTEMBER 18

THE MAINSTAY in the political discourse of Jammu and Kashmir, and Ladakh since August 5, 2019, has been the abrogation of Article 370, the legal challenges surrounding it, the reorganisation of the erstwhile state into two Union Territories and the aftermath of the Centre's move.

While national parties have stayed clear of addressing the issue in their manifestos, most regional mainstream parties have built their campaign for the on-going Assembly polls around it.

A look at the stand of the main players:

National Conference

Restoration of statehood, and Articles 370 and 35A "as prior to August 5, 2019" features prominently in the NC's manifesto as well as its campaign. Party leaders, including president Farooq Abdullah and vice-president Omar Abdullah, have repeatedly spoken of the impact that the Constitutional changes of August 2019 have had while emphasising the need to protect the "identity and dignity" of the people of the region.

Conceding that the restoration of Article 370 would be a "long haul", the NC in its manifesto has promised to "redraw the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act, 2019, and the Transaction of Business of the Government of Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir Rules, 2019, in the interim period".

The NC has also said that as the first list of business in the Assembly post the polls, it "will



While the NC concedes restoration of Article 370 will be "a long haul", the PDP says the legislation formed "the basis of J&K's relationship with India". File

pass a resolution against the Centre's decision to strip the region of its statehood and special status" and make efforts to "modify, annul, and repeal post-August 2019 laws that impact the special status of Jammu and Kashmir".

Congress

Though its ally NC has staunchly spoken in support of restoration of Article 370, the Congress has stayed clear of any conversation surrounding the issue.

Even as party president Mallikarjun Kharge, Leader of the Opposition (LoP) in the Lok Sabha, Rahul Gandhi and Jammu and Kashmir Congress chief Tariq Hameed Karra have repeatedly emphasised on the need to restore statehood, they have not engaged on the issue of special status.

The party has also maintained that if elected to power, the Congress-NC alliance government would work on a common minimum programme.

Peoples Democratic Party

The last party to hold power in the state of Jammu and Kashmir, the PDP says it will focus on resolving "the Kashmir issue" as

it is "the cornerstone for lifting the people out of a persistent cycle of violence and unrest".

A vocal opponent of the Centre's August 2019 move, PDP chief Mehbooba Mufti has termed the revocation of Constitutional guarantees as "illegal and unconstitutional", adding that Article 370 formed the basis of Jammu and Kashmir's relationship with India.

Emphasising on conflict resolution, confidence building measures (CBM) and regional cooperation, the PDP has also advocated revival of "diplomatic initiatives with Pakistan".

BJP

The party which facilitated the abrogation of Article 370 and reorganised the erstwhile state has said the issue is a "closed chapter" and accused the Congress-NC of "wanting to release terrorists in the garb of restoring Article 370".

In its manifesto, the BJP has stated that the abrogation of Article 370 has led to the "complete integration of Jammu and Kashmir" with the Constitution of India. "This has enabled the establishment of the Panchayati Raj system and extension of key Central laws to the region, promoting grassroots democracy

and social justice," the election manifesto reads.



Apni Party

The Altaf Bukhari-led party, which is accused by its opponents as "a proxy of the BJP", has termed

what happened on August 5, 2019, a "momentous change in the history of the state".

The party has also sought a "pragmatic and realistic" approach to lead the UT towards political stability and economic prosperity. "The party's priority is to establish peace and create an environment conducive to progress," it has stated.

Maintaining that it will work to "secure Constitutional guarantees for the protection of land and jobs for local youth", the Apni Party has said it will work with the Prime Minister to restore Jammu and Kashmir's statehood, and has also made a mention of restoring Article 370.

People's Conference

Talking about the party's role in the earliest legal battle against the "unilateral" abrogation of

Article 370, the Sajad Lone-led outfit has reiterated its commitment to "fight for the restoration of Articles 370, 35A and statehood". Lone has said his party will take "all exhaustive measures" to pursue the cause.

Awami Ittehad Party

Party chief and Baramulla MP Engineer Rashid, who walked out of jail on September 11 after being granted bail in a terror funding case, said the AIP would support the INDIA bloc if it promises to restore Article 370. "If the INDIA bloc assures us it will restore Article 370 when it comes to power in Delhi, I will tell every candidate of mine to pledge each vote of their supporters in its favour," he said.

Rashid also said the Kashmir issue must be solved if India wants to be seen as a global leader.

I HEREBY DECLARE

RAVINDER RAINA, 47,

BJP J&K chief, ex-MLA and Nowshera candidate



TOTAL ASSETS ₹1,000 (2024)

Movable assets	₹1,000
Immovable assets	None
Liabilities	None
Education	BSc
Pending criminal cases	None

SURINDER KUMAR CHOUDHARY, 56,

National Conference's Nowshera candidate



TOTAL ASSETS ₹2.04 CR (2024)

Movable assets	₹99.49 lakh
Immovable assets	₹1.04 cr
Liabilities	₹56,412
Education	Class 12
Pending criminal cases	None

insists to *The Indian Express*. "At 25, your brain is fully developed, which is why this is the minimum age for contesting."

Apart from Leela Ram, Aditya is up against the Aam Aadmi Party's Satbir Goyat and the INLD-BSP's Anil Tanwar.

In the recent Lok Sabha polls, the Congress did not contest the Kurukshetra Lok Sabha seat under which Kaithal falls, leaving it for its ally AAP. The BJP's Naveen Jindal won, with the AAP's Sushil Gupta trailing in the Kaithal Assembly segment.

Aditya says he is not worried. Free of the anxiety of sustaining his family – he has Rs 26 crore in assets and Rs 1.5 crore annual income, as per his affidavit – he says his only aim is to make the lives of the people better. "I am sure I will win with a margin that Kaithal has never seen in its history,"

KEY PLAYERS

His father's son, Aditya Surjewala banks on family legacy, fights 'videshi' tag

VARINDER BHATIA CHANDIGARH, SEPTEMBER 18

IT'S NEVER too early to be in politics – especially when it comes to the family seat. At 25, Aditya Surjewala just makes the cut.

The youngest in the fray in the October 5 Haryana Assembly elections, he is the Congress candidate from the Kaithal seat, after father Randeep Singh Surjewala tried very hard for a ticket for himself – and failed.

It was only last year that Aditya finished his graduation in Canada, from the University of British Columbia, after schooling at The International School, Bangalore. This fact is what his BJP rival and veteran Leela Ram is underlining to take on the debutant.

Leela Ram, 63, who narrowly defeated Surjewala Senior in the

2019 Assembly polls, dismisses Aditya saying: "His father is *videshi* (a jibe at the fact that Randeep Surjewala has mainly been active in national politics), and *beta super videshi hai, aaya hi videsh se hai* (the son is a super foreigner, he has even come from a foreign land)."

The Kaithal seat was won by Aditya's grandfather Shamsher Singh Surjewala (now deceased) in 2005. Before that, he was a four-time MLA from Narwana and a one-time MP. Randeep won Kaithal in 2009 and 2014, but after that, he has failed to win an election, losing first the Kaithal Assembly seat in 2019 and then a 2020 Assembly bypoll from Jind.

Randeep is currently a Congress Rajya Sabha MP from Rajasthan, who has made news in the Haryana Assembly elections this time only for pushing back – ineffectually – against his bitter

party rival Bhupinder Singh Hooda. Surjewala Senior is believed to be still hopeful of chief ministership should the Congress win come October 8.

Dented as his father's legacy currently is, Aditya has only that to go on, given his own inexperience. In the campaign, Randeep and his supporters are a constant presence, guiding his debut. His posters include images of the senior Congress leadership, including Rahul and Sonia Gandhi and Mallikarjun Kharge.

At one of his campaign rallies in a Kaithal village, Aditya addresses his five-year stay abroad, and links it to the situation back in Haryana. "When I went to Canada in 2018, I would not see many youngsters from our area there. In 2023, I could only find youth from Haryana who had moved there after realising that there were no job



Aditya Surjewala, at 25 the youngest candidate in the Haryana polls, is the Congress nominee for Kaithal. Facebook

avenues back home. My heart ached seeing that."

He tells *The Indian Express* that Kaithal has always been home. "I

have friends here and in Narwana too, where I spent a lot of my childhood. Shamsher Singh Surjewala ji used to take my

brother and me out in the car. As a young boy at that time, I felt how important and satisfying it is to help people."

Aditya says his degree too will help his politics. "My degree is about operations and logistics. So, I learnt a lot from my personal experience in Canada, how different governments function, how different bureaucracies work..."

He says he understands how to reach out to the different communities in Kaithal, as well. "I understand that a labourer has a different problem than a shopkeeper in the city. So, I try to understand their issues. The language has to be changed, the dialect changes."

He tells people how he has seen Kaithal's "transformation" under his father, and the "deterioration" since. "Kaithal is like our temple... Our sisters, daughters, mothers could once easily move

Classifieds

PERSONAL

I, Lvneeya W/o Sh Arun Kumar R/O RZ -26 Gali No.4, Geetanjali Park West Sagar Pur, Nangal Raya Delhi-110046 have changed my name from Barkha to Lvneeya for all purposes. 0070924659-1

I, Km Rupali W/o Anil Kumar Anand R/o Villa No.-15, Shristi, Dundaheera, Ghaziabad, UP-201009 have changed my name to RUPALI ANAND for all future purposes. 0070924638-1

I, Khushboo Shree Sharma W/O Amit Kumar Sharma R/O Apex Golf Avenue E-1105, Atul Marg, Bisrakh Road, Sports City, Greater Noida, Gautam Buddha Nagar, Uttar Pradesh-201308 has changed my name from KHUSHBOO SHREE SHARMA To KHUSHBOO SHREE for all future Purposes. 0070924635-1

I, Jamini Campbell D/o Anoop Campbell R/o-881, Main-Market, Sector-31, Gurgaon, Haryana-122001, have changed my name to Jamini Mary Campbell, Permanently. 0040750091-2

I, Gunjan D/o Sh. Laxmi Narain Chandna R/o 8, Rashid Market Ext., New Delhi-110051 have changed my name to Gunjan Chandna. 0070924583-1

I, Dharam Nath Prasad S/o Mahendra Prasad R/O H.No.213, Gali No.3, 25 futa Road, Saraswati Vihar, Loni Dehat, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh-201102 do hereby declare that both the names i.e. Dharam Nath Prasad & D.N.Prasad are one and of the same person. 0070924649-1

I, Anupriya Sharma W/o Kamal Sharma R/O 779, S.F, Gali No 7, Govindpuri, Kalkaji, New Delhi 110019, have changed my name to Anu Sharma for all purposes. 0040750035-1

I, Rakesh Thakur R/O House no 11 L block L extension mohan garden West Delhi-110059 has changed my name to Rakesh Kumar Thakur for all purpose 0070924580-1

I, RIDA, D/O TASLEEM AHMAD, R/O T-15/1 G/F KHIRKI EXTN. MALVIYA NAGAR NEW DELHI 110017, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO RIDA FATIMA FOR ALL PURPOSES 0040750039-1

I, Mohammad Naushad Ansari S/O, Mohammad Rusabali Ansari R/O Hno 266 P-2 Ward No -2 Mehrauli, New Delhi 110030 have changed my name to Mohd Naushad Ansari. 0040750107-1

I, Kapil S/o Anil Kumar Garg R/o U-1/45, Budh Vihar Phase-1, Near Bharat Shakti School, Delhi-110086, have changed my name to Kapil Garg 0070924627-1

I, K SAJKUMAR FATHER OF ABHIJITH S RESIDENT OF KIZHAKKUM BHAGAM, ATTINKUZHY, KAZHAKUTTOM, THIRUVANANTHAPURAM 695582. HAVE CHANGED MY NAME FROM K SAJKUMAR TO SAJKUMAR K VIDE AFFIDAVIT DATED 21 AUGUST 2024. 0070924610-1

I, G LATHA MOTHER OF ABHIJITH S RESIDENT OF KIZHAKKUM BHAGAM, ATTINKUZHY, KAZHAKUTTOM, THIRUVANANTHAPURAM 695582. HAVE CHANGED MY NAME FROM G LATHA TO G LATHA KUMARI VIDE AFFIDAVIT DATED 21 AUGUST 2024. 0070924611-1

I, Chand Mohd Faisal S/O, Rahis Khan R/O House No. 152 B, Gali No 4, A-block, Near Jama Masjid, Kabir Nagar, Delhi-110094 have changed my name to Mohd Faisal 0040750106-1

I, hitherto known as VIJENDRA K.R.CHOUDHARY, S/O-MAHARAJ SINGH, R/O SADHOPUR, DHOOMEDSO, GAUT AMBUDDHA-NAGAR, UTTAR PRADESH-203207, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as VIJENDRA CHOUDHARY. 0040750114-4

It is for general information that I, Raj Kumar, S/o-Tulsi Dass, R/o-363, Katra-Sheikh Ranjha, Hauzgaazi-North Delhi-110006, declare that name of my wife has been wrongly written as Kanchan in my minor son Advait Mehra aged-14-Years School Records. The actual name of my wife is Kanchan Bala, which may be amended accordingly 0040750108-8

It is for general information that I, Anuj Jain, S/o-Suriender Kumar Jain, R/o-46/1A/1, 3rd.Floor, Gali No.16, East Azad-Nagar, Delhi-110051, Declare that name of my Late father has been wrongly-written as Surendra Kumar Jain in my all India Secondary School Exam-2002, CBSE, Delhi. The actual-name of my Lat- father is Suriender Kumar Jain, which may be amended accordingly. 0040750108-6

I, khushbu or khushboo w/O Gaurav Maheshwari R/O H.No 1/6085 3rd Floor Near Sai Mandir East Rohtash Nagar Shahdara Delhi-110032 have changed my name to Karuna Maheshwari. 0070924651-1

I, hitherto known as Rakesh Kumar Sharma S/o Netra Pal Sharma, R/o Flat No-21, Shivshakti Apartment, Pocket-04, Sector-A9, Narela, North West Delhi, Delhi-110040, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Rakesh Sharma. 0040750116-1

I, hitherto known as Raj Kumar, S/o-Paranand R/o, E-24/2, Khajuri-Khas, Khajoori Khas, North-East Delhi, Delhi-110094, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Jai Singh Chauhan. 0040750116-4

I, hitherto known as Praveen Kumar alias Parveen Dabas, S/o Shri Sat Raj Singh, R/o, H. No.52, Near-Purani Chopal, Rani Khera, North-West, Delhi-110081, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Parveen Dabas. 0040750114-2

I, VIVEK PANDEY, S/O-KAUSHAL KISHOR PANDEY, H NO-254, LAKHANPUR, KANPUR-NAGAR, KANPUR-208017, U.P.HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO VIVEK KUMAR PANDEY, FOR ALL, FUTURE PURPOSE. 0040750116-6

I, VIMAL ABBHI, S/O DEVENDER PARKASH R/O 818 A, HUDA COLONY SEC-03 BALLABGAR FARIDABAD HARYANA-121004, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO VIMAL JEET 0040750122-2

I, VIKRANT SINGH, S/O-PANNA LAL, R/O, H.No-112/L-1, Type-3 Cpwd Government Quarters, Dev-Nagar, Karol Bagh, Delhi-110055, have changed my name to VICKRANT SINGH, for all, future purposes. 0040750119-5

I, V K Sharma, S/o Late M.N. Sharma, R/O Sri Mahamaya Vaishnav Devi Mandir, Sector-8, R.K. Puram, New Delhi-110022, have changed my name to Vinod Kumar Sharma for all purposes. 0040750042-2

I, Sunil Kumar Sharma, S/o Shri. Kanhaiya Lal Sharma R/o-M-172, Gali. No.12, Shastri Nagar, Delhi-110052, have changed my daughter's name from Jaanvi, D/o Sunil Sharma to Jaanvi Sharma, D/o Sunil Kumar Sharma, for all, future purposes. 0040750117-6

I, Subhash Luthera, S/O NANO LAL LUTHRA, R/O-112, Gali.no.3, Gagan Vihar extension Krishna Nagar Delhi 110051, have changed my name to Subhash Luthra. 0040750122-7

I, Sapna Surana W/o Manoj Kumar Mahnot R/o B-9/14, 4th.Floor Krishna Nagar Delhi-110051, have changed my name to Sapna Mahnot for all purposes. 0040750108-7

I, RITU BIRMHAN W/O-NARESH KUMAR, H.NO.4021, SECOND FLOOR, ELDECO COUNTY, SECTOR-19, SONIPAT, HARYANA -131001, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO RITU. 0040750119-2

I, Sandeep Lall, S/o-Parshotam Lall, R/o-Flat.No-35, Second-Floor Pkt.G-4, Rohini, Sector-15, S.O, North-West Delhi, Delhi-110089, have changed the name of my minor daughter Dakshyani aged-14-years and she shall hereafter be known as Dakshyani Kashyap. 0040750116-3

I, SUSHIL KUMAR S/O-PREM CHAND R/O-FLAT.NO-Z-704, SIDDHARTHA APPARTMENT, M P ENCLAVE, PITAMPURA, DELHI-110034, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO SUSHIL KUMAR GARG. 0040750119-3

I, SHREYA SUDESH, W/O PRAMOD RAJENDRAN, R/O-SANTUSHTI APARTMENTS D6, VASANT KUNJ, NEW DELHI-110070, have changed my name, from SHREYA SUDESH TO SHREYA PRAMOD. 0040750114-5

I, SHIBU JOSEPH, S/O-M P CHACKO, R/O-A-301, SETHI, MAX ROYAL SECTOR-76, NOIDA-GAUTAMBUDHA NAGAR-201301, U.P., HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO SHIBU JOSEPH M C, FOR ALL, FUTURE PURPOSES. 0040750116-5

I, Ruminder Kumar Chowdhry, S/o-Ram Sarup Chowdhry, R/O-14/77, Geeta-Colony, Delhi-110031, inform that Ruminder Kumar Chowdhry and Ruminder Chowdhry both are one and same person. In future I will be known as Ruminder Kumar Chowdhry, for all purposes. 0040750108-2

I, RANJIT DOGRA, S/O RATTAN CHAND, R/O, H.NO.2620, 2ND-FLOOR, GALI.NO.9, CHUNA MANDI, PAHAR GANJ, CENTRAL-DELHI, DELHI-110055, have changed my father name RATTAN CHAND to RATTAN DOGRA, for all, future purposes. 0040750119-4

I, PRITAM SINGH TANWAR S/O NATHU SINGH R/O WZ-1584A NANGAL RAYAN DELHI-110046, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO PRITAM SINGH 0040750122-1

I, Nakul S/o Subhash Luthra, R/O-112, Gali no.3, Gagan Vihar extension Krishna Nagar Delhi-110051, have changed my name to Nakul Luthra 0040750122-6

I, Md. Ashpakh S/o Gulam Hazrat, R/O 51,T-Block, Mangolpuri N Block,Po, Mangolpuri, North West Delhi-110083, have changed my name to Ashpakh Khan. 0040750119-9

I, Mother of No.14662322W NK Bhaghyanath M at, Edacheri(Vill), Edacheri(P.O), Edacheri(P.S), Kozhikode (Dist), Kerala (State). My actual name is Vijayakumari M.K D.O.B 27 June-1957 as per my Aadhar-Card. But my son's service records my name's wrongly mentioned as Vijayakumari instead of Vijayakumari M.K. 0040750112-5

I, Mohammad Sarwar Alam, S/o- Mohammad Razi Ahmad, House.no- PVT75 plot.no-62/B, Kh.no-28/22 BLK-mange ram-park Ch masjid, Rohini, Delhi-110086, changed my name to Sarwar Alam. 0040750117-3

I, Kiran W/o Vinod Kumar Sharma, R/o Sri Mahamaya Vaishnav Devi Mandir, Sector-8, R.K. Puram, New Delhi-110022, have changed my name to Kiran Sharma for all purposes. 0040750042-1

I, Kamal Prakash alias Kamal Prakash Bhardwaj, S/o-Khem Chand Bharadwaj R/O B-4/8, Gali No.5, Kabir Nagar, Delhi-110092, have changed my name to Kamal Prakash Bharadwaj for all future purposes. 0040750118-1

I, KAVERI DUTTA, W/O-SWAROOP DUTTA, R/O-1129 D, DD-BLOCK, 11TH FLOOR, 11TH-AVENUE, GAUR-CITY 2, GREATER-NOIDA-WEST, GAUTAMBUDDHA-NAGAR, U.P.-201305, have changed my name to KAVERI MAJUMDAR. 0040750122-3

I, Shitij Bhatia S/O Mohit Bhatia R/O 13/31 old Rajinder Nagar, New Delhi-110060, changed my name to Kshitij Bhatia. 0040750114-1

I, Jasvinder Singh, R/o-40, Punjabi Mohalla, Zamrudpur, GK-1, New-Delhi-110048. My father's correct-name Harjinder Singh but his name wrongly-mentioned as S Harjinder Singh Rattan in my educational-certificates i.e. 10th & 12th marksheet, Graduation degree. 0040750114-3

I, Harish Chander Singh Rawat, S/o: Nandan Singh Rawat, house no.121 block-7 Lodhi Colony New Delhi-110003, changed my name to Harish Chander Singh. 0040750117-4

I, Hakikun, D/o Ajeem, R/o-Vill Karhiya Hajari Patti Post Dummarbhar Kushinagar, UP-274304 have changed my name, from Hakikun Neshta to Hakikun, for all my purposes. 0040750122-4

I, HIMANSHU KUMAR, S/O-TUHI RAM, residing at L-117/2, LAXMAN-PURI NABI KARIM-PAHARGANJ, DELHI-110055, have changed my minor son name, from GAURANG PRAJAPATI to GAURANG K PRAJAPATI, for all, future purpose. 0040750116-2

I, HARPREET KAUR W/O VISHAL BHALLA R/O H.NO.30, POCKET-6, SECTOR-2, ROHINI, DELHI-110085, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO HARPREET BHALLA. 0040750119-1

I, Ekta Bhatia W/o Manoj Bhatia R/o 26/531, Killa Mohalla, Bahadurgarh, district Jhajjar (Haryana)-124507, have changed my name to Kiran. 0040750119-8

I, Dinesh Kumar R/o H.No.284/4, Ram Nagar, Gurgaon (Haryana)-122001, have changed my Minor Son name from Himank to Himank Khatri . 0040750119-7

I, Deepty alias Deepty Garg alias Deepty Aggarwal Garg, W/O-Udit Garg, R/O-Flat.No-109, Ist-floor, Saraswati-Apartment, Tower S-3, Pocket-D-6, Vasant-Kunj, South-Delhi-110070, have changed my name to Deepty Aggarwal. 0040750108-3

I, Deep Chand, S/o-Mr.Jagan Nath, R/o-WZ18-B/486, CSA Colony, Nazipur Indl. Area, Delhi-110052, inform that in my minor daughter's school record her name wrongly written as DIKSHIKA instead of correct name DIKSHIKA. Kindly amendment accordingly her name in school records. 0040750117-5

I, BHUVANESHWAR SINGH, son of, BHANWAR SINGH, residing at Plot.No. 1&2, Second-Floor, Pkt-11, Sector-22, Rohini, North-West Delhi-110086, have changed the name of my minor son REHAAN SINGH aged-15-years and she shall hereafter be known as RRANVIJAY SINGH. 0040750108-4

I, Asha Rani W/O Pardeep Kumar, R/O B/CA-1601 16th-Floor, City Apartment-Aditya World City Bamheta NH-24, Ghaziabad, U.P.-201002, Have Changed My Name To Asha Lalwani, Permanently. 0040750117-2

I, RADHAKRISHAN S/O RAMLAL R/O. FLAT NO-A-304, BALAJI APARTMENT SECTOR-14, ROHINI, DELHI-110085, HAVE CHANGE MY NAME TO RADHA KRISHAN CHHABRA. 0040750108-5

I, Priya D/o Sh. Dharmend Shukla, R/o H.No. 27, IInd Floor, Pocket-3, Sector-2, Rohini, Delhi-85, have changed my name to Priya Shukla for all future purposes. 0040750061-1

I, ASHWANEE KUMAR SRIVASTAV, S/O, SUSHIL KUMAR, HOUSE, NO-5, GREEN-VALLEY SOCIETY, NEAR SUPER CAST FACTORY, GREATER-NOIDA WEST, CHIPYANA BUZURG, CHHIPYANA, GAUTAM BUDDHA NAGAR, U.P.-201009, have changed my name to ASHVANI KUMAR. 0040750122-5

I, AJAY KUMAR, S/O DAMODAR DASS GOYAL, H.NO-129/27(A) JAWAHAR COLONY FARIDABAD, HARYANA-121005, have changed my name to AJAY KUMAR GOYAL, for all, future purpose. 0040750117-1

I, Raj Wanti W/o Raj Singh Sehrawat, R/o-561, Pana Begawan Village-Bawana, Delhi-110039, have changed my name to Rajwanti, Permanently. 0040750091-1

I, Yogesh Kumar S/o Shri Ashok Kumar R/o Village & Post- Astoli, Distt.-G.B.Nagar U.P.-201302, have changed my minor's daughter's name from Swasti to Swasti Bhati for all future purposes. 0070924653-1

I, VIKAS CHANDAN S/O PRIYA VARAT CHANDAN R/O V-1/58, Second-Floor, Rajouri-Garden, West-Delhi, Delhi-110027, have changed my name to VEKKAS CHANDN. 0040750044-1

I, Sukanya Kumar Sinha W/o Kamal Preet Singh, R/o- H.No.Eden-551, Sector-14, Gurgaon Haryana-122001, have changed my name to Sukanya Kumar, Permanently. 0040750091-3

I, Sourav Tomer, S/o Mr. Manvir Singh R/o H.No.411, Gali No.24, Saraswati Colony, Sehatpur, Faridabad, Haryana-121013 have changed my name to Sourav Tomar for all future purposes. 0040750022-1

I, Sameer Kant Colvin S/o. Jerald Herman Colvin R/o. Flat No. B-707, Kbnows Green Apt Plot No.GH45, Sector-16, Greater Noida have changed my name to Samir Kant Colvin 0040750067-1

I, SANTOSH DEVI W/O No.4547811Y RANK Ex HAV SATBIR YADAV R/O 573, RAJOKARI PO:A F RAJOKARI, DIST: DELHI-110038 HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO SUMESH DEVI VIDE AFFIDAVIT DT. 18.9.24 BEFORE DELHI. 0070924665-1

I, Rachna Suhag D/o Surender Singh R/o 412/310, Bishan, Jhajjar, Beri (Haryana)-124201, have changed my name to Rachna . 0040750119-6

I, Preety W/o Sachin Singh Sisodiya R/o Flat No-16106, Tower-Alpine, Mahagun Mywoods, Sector-16C, Greater Noida West, UP-201318 have changed my name to PRITI CHAUHAN for all future purposes. 0070924636-1

I, Prahlad Rai Aggarwal S/o late Ram Chander R/O A-2/208, Milan Vihar Apartments, plot no 72, I.P. Extension, Patparganj, Delhi-110092 have changed my name to Prahlad Rai Gupta for all future purposes. 0040750024-1

I, Nrendra Singh Bora S/o Lalit Singh Bora S/O-93-T, Sector-8, Jasola, Okhla, Delhi-110025, have changed my name to Narendar Singh Bora. 0040750122-8

I, Anita Luthera, W/o-Subhash Luthra, S/O-NAND LAL LUTHRA, R/O-112, Gali.no.3, Gagan-Vihar extension Krishna-Nagar Delhi-110051, have changed my name to Anita Luthra. 0040750122-9

I, No.4547811Y RANK Ex HAV SATBIR S/O SHRI BHAGWAN R/O 573, RAJOKARI PO:A F RAJOKARI, DIST: DELHI-110038 HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO SATBIR YADAV VIDE AFFIDAVIT DT. 18.9.24 BEFORE DELHI. 0070924666-1

I, Nitin Kumar S/o Bhupendra Singh R/o 326, Jagriti Vihar Sector-23, Sanjay Nagar District Ghaziabad have changed name of my daughter from Anshika Kashyap to Yashi Kashyap for all future purposes, my daughter should be known by the name of Yashi Kashyap. 0070924632-1

I, Nishant Seahgaal S/o Yadav Indar Pal Sehgal R/O H.No-81, Sector-15A Noida, Uttar Pradesh-201301, have Changed my name to Nishant Sehgaal permanently. 0040750108-1

I, Mohammad Asghar Iqbal S/o Mr. MD Naqui Ahmad R/o H.No. 80, Gali No-15, Zakir Nagar, Okhla, South Delhi-110025. My name on school record is mentioned as Mohammed Asghar Iqbal and whereas on my aadhar card it is mentioned as Mohammad Asghar Iqbal, both are one and same person. My correct name is Mohammad Asghar Iqbal, it will be same in future. 0040750020-1

I, PRASHANT S/o Sh. ASHOK KUMAR, D.O.B. 14.04.1991 R/O S A 55, FF, KH No 23/18, Ram Dutt Enclave, Uttam Nagar East, Delhi 110059 also Near PHC Satnali, VPO Satnali, Mahendergarh, Haryana 123024, have changed my name to PRASHANT MAHADEV vide affidavit dt.17.09.2024 sworn before Mr. NAVNEET KAUR, SL No 36/2023, Oath Commissioner Tis Hazari Court Delhi. 0070924657-1

I, Mamta Gupta, w/o Rohit Gupta, residing at *D-5/34, Ratia Marg, Sangam Vihar, New Delhi-110080*, have changed my name from *Mamta Upreti* to *Mamta Gupta* . I shall now be known as *Mamta Gupta* in future for all purposes. 0040750036-1

I, MONA W/O ANKIT KUMAR SINHA, R/O FLAT NO 202 2ND FLOOR 49ND RESIDENCY SHR SECTOR 49 NOIDA, SD VIDYA SCHOOL, GAUTAM BUDDHA NAGAR, UTTAR PRADESH-201301, have changed my name to MONA SONKER for all future purposes. 0070924607-1

LOST & FOUND

Lost my Original Possession Slip of my Plot No.B-29, Mangol Puri, Delhi-110083. Finder may Contact-Suresh Kumar Jain at C-186, Prashant Vihar, Delhi-85 0040750046-1

Lost my Original Allotment Letter of Plot No. B-332, Sector-C-8, Tronica City, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh. Finder may Contact- Love Gopal Bhardwaj at Kh. No.611 Neelkanth Mahadev Marg, Sabhapur Extension, Delhi-110094 0040750044-1

I, S. Sathyamani, S/o K.V. Srinivasan, R/O A1B, DDA Flats, Munirka, New Delhi-110067, have lost my original allotment letter on flat No. 606, Block-10, Second. Floor, Kendriya Vihar, Sec.-51, Noida, issued by CGEWHO during aug 1994 Reg. No. NAB0790. If found please contact 9868100830. 0040750027-1

I, Ashwani Kumar Gautam, S/o Sh.Yesh Pal, R/o, B/12, Gali.No.2, Satya Vihar, Burari, Delhi, have declare that I have lost my property-documents bearing KH.No.1198, Gold City Pavi, Sadak-Pur, Loni, Gaziabad, Uttar Pradesh of-120sq.yard. If found contact- 7838689325. 0040750114-9

It is for general information that I, Shekhar Tyagi S/o Sh. Anil Tyagi R/o Village Achheja, Dist. Hapur, UP inform that I have lost receipt nos. 0662556 of Rs. 34,00000/- and 0662792 of Rs. 51160/- of Plot No. C.D.-14, Avantika, Ghaziabad (UP), Finder please contact: 7838431699 0040750101-1

PUBLIC NOTICE

Mr. Naveen Babu has approached ICICI Bank Ltd., Veera Tower, S-26, 2nd floor, Green Park Extn, New Delhi (Bank) for advancing a loan for purchase of DDA Flat No. 285, Ground floor, alongwith Scooter Garage No. 5 & Car Garage No. 56, Gulmohar Enclave, New Delhi, from Mrs. Dipika Dhawan, who has represented that she is the absolute owner of said flat by way of Will dated 03.07.2015 (reg. no. 673) executed by Late Mrs. Chander Mehra, who was the Original owner by virtue of Conveyance Deed dated 24.09.2013 (Reg. No. 24039). If anybody, person, body corporate has any right, lien or claim whatsoever on the said Property, then he/she/it may contact the undersigned with documentary proof of claim within 15 days of publication of this notice, otherwise it shall be deemed that either there are no claims or the same have been waived off. No claim or objection shall be entertained thereafter and Bank shall proceed to advance the loan by mortgaging the said property. Amit Kumar, Advocate GNA & Associates D-28, Jangpura Extension, New Delhi-110014. 0040750122-9

PUBLIC NOTICE

To be known to all that my client Sh. Pankaj Manchanda and Sh. Sachin Manchanda both Sons of Late Sh. Om Parkash Manchanda R/O C-41, Pashupani Enclave, Pitampura, Delhi-110034, the owner of Property bearing C-41, Pashupani Enclave, Pitampura, Delhi-110034. That the original Share Certificate, Allotment Letter, possession letter/Slip, Map Plan, Sanction Letter, Form C & D, and related documents in respect of the above mentioned property issued by the DDA, New Delhi, all in the name of Late Sh. Om Parkash Manchanda, has been misplaced/lost, traceable or lost anywhere, and not traceable with best efforts. A FIR/NCR/LR No. 21095687/2024 dated 15/09/2024 with the PS, Crime Branch, New Delhi, against this has been lodged. Any person claiming any right, title or interests, having any objection or found in possession of any original documents may write or contact with the above named person at the above address by phone No. 989411107 within 15 days from the date of publication of this NOTICE. The person claiming any rights, interests, objection with respect to the above said property can personally inform or write to The Deputy Director(CS)/Director (CS), or to the undersigned. (M. G. VACHER) Advocate CH. No. 234, CIVIL WING, TIS HAZARI, DELHI-110054. (MOBILE-9810429034) 0040750122-9

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, ANIL KUMAR PUNSHI, S/o. Late Sh. R.K.Punshi, Prop. BA/80A, Janakipur, ND-58 being allotted vide DDA File No. F-32(123)74/648/86 having Ph No. 9819979609 have lost their Original Allotment and Possession Letter, Demand Letter, NCC Slip of Water and Electricity Connection issued by DDA aforsaid property has been lost. A.F.I.R./LR. No. 2085687/2024 dated 30/9/2024 with the PS, Crime Branch, New Delhi, against this has been lodged to police station. Any person(s) claiming any right, having any objection or found in possession of original documents may write/contact who above named person at above address vide 15 days from the date of publication of this notice and can personally contact - Deputy Director (L&B) Housing, MIG-D-Blk, 3rd Floor, DDA Vikas Sadan, INA, N.D. 0040750122-9

PUBLIC NOTICE

My Clientess Smt. Jagmiti W/o Late Sh. Sate Singh R/o 150, Near Chowk, Birla Mandir, Village Barwala, Delhi-11009, has severed all relations with his son namely, Bhodeer & his wife Ms. Prati Both resident C/o Sh. Ravinder Rama, Mohan Adla, Near Khem Kalam, Delhi and further disinherited them from all her movable and immovable properties i.e. residential plot situated at Village Barwala and Agricultural land situated at Village Muan, Teohil Gunoor, Sonapat, Haryana. My client shall have no concerns with them. Because both are not under the control of my client. Anybody dealing with them in connection of any property and otherwise may do so at his/her own risk and peril and my client shall in no way be responsible for same in any manner whatsoever. Sd/- AJIT SINGH Advocate CH.No.89 W. WING, Tis Hazari Courts, Delhi-110054

pnAJIT4hX3wSSR(3)

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is for general information that I, AASTHA JAISWAL D/O ANIL KUMAR JAISWAL R/O BARAHPUR, BARAH PUR, GHAZIPUR, UTTAR PRADESH -233302 declare that name of my father has been wrongly written as ANIL JAISWAL in my all educational documents. The actual name of my father is ANIL KUMAR JAISWAL, which may be amended accordingly. Sd/- YASH VERMA ADVOCATE Enrl. No.015766717 Chamber No.95, Old Court, Sub-Registrar No.1, Kasbhere Gate, Delhi-06.

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is for general information that I, AADYA JAISWAL D/O ANIL KUMAR JAISWAL R/O BARAHPUR, BARAH PUR, GHAZIPUR, UTTAR PRADESH -233302 declare that name of my father has been wrongly written as ANIL JAISWAL in my all educational documents. The actual name of my father is ANIL KUMAR JAISWAL, which may be amended accordingly. Sd/- Dinesh Singhal Advocate Office-# D-52 Ground Floor, Phase-2, Nangloi, Delhi-110041

PUBLIC NOTICE

IT IS HEREBY INFORMED THAT SHRI KAMESH SHARMA, WHO HAD INFORMED FOR LOAN FROM LICHT, AND THERE IS A DEATH OF SMT. MORA ALIAS HARSIMINDER KAUR AND DURING HER LIFE TIME SHE EXECUTED A REGISTERED WILL DATED 12.06.2014 IN FAVOR OF SHRI GULSHAN NAGPAL, IN RESPECT OF THE FREEDHABLER UP PROPERTY BEARING PLOT No. 23, AREA MEASURING 59 SQ. YDS., OUT OF KHASRA No. 86 TO 94, SITUATED AT VILLAGE NAWADA, COLONY KNOWN AS OM VIHAR IN BLOCK-D, NEW DELHI-11009, AND THERE ARE OTHER LEGAL HEIRS ALSO. IF ANY OTHER CLAIMANT HAS ANY RIGHT IN THE AFORESAID PROPERTY, HE/SHE SHOULD INFORM & GIVE INTIMATION TO THE UNDERSIGNED WITHIN 15 DAYS FROM THE DATE OF ISSUE OF THIS NOTICE. SUBRASHI GUPTA (Advocate) Mohd. 9810427002 D-446/2002

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notified that my Clients Shri Rai Singh S/o Late Sh. Tule Ram and Smt. Madhu wife of Sh. Rai Singh both R/o H. No.B-84,85,86 Ashul Colony, Bawana, Delhi-110039 have down and bequeathed their son Gitanuash Rathor and his wife Smt. Shakuntala from inhering all their movable & immovable properties with immediate effect and have severed all kinds of relations with them. Anybody dealing with them in any manner shall be doing so at his own risks, consequences, responsibility and costs and my clients and their daughters shall not be responsible liable for any of their acts or deeds. Sd/- Dinesh Singhal Advocate Office-# D-52 Ground Floor, Phase-2, Nangloi, Delhi-110041

PUBLIC NOTICE

Be it known to all concerned on the behalf of my client Sh. PANCHU NAND M.S. S/O Sh. RAM MOHAN DAS R/O D-502, SWARN JAYANTI VIHAR, TKRI KHURD, NARELA, DELHI 110040 that he has severed all his relations with his Children L Lohan Das, Bholu Das, Somer Das, Beena Das, Meena Das and Jaya and has disowned and disinherited them from all his movable and immovable properties. Anyone dealing with them shall do so on their own risk and consequences. MUZAMMIL USMANI (Advocate) Advocate & Legal Consultant Office at: 362 II Floor, Kohat Enclave New Delhi-110034

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notified that my Clients Shri Rai Singh S/o Late Sh. Tule Ram and Smt. Madhu wife of Rai Singh both R/o H. No.B-84,85,86 Ashul Colony, Bawana, Delhi-110039 do hereby, with the present notice, disown their son namely Priyanshu Rathor and his wife Smt. Sushma Rathor and have severed all kinds of relationship with them. They are being considered and beyond their control and my dealing with them shall be doing so at his own risks and costs and we shall not be responsible liable for any of their act/deeds. Sd/- Dinesh Singhal Advocate Office-# D-52 Ground Floor, Phase-2, Nangloi, Delhi-110041

pnDINESH4hX3wSSR(20)

COURT NOTICE

IN THE COURT OF SH. NARESH KUMAR MALHOTRA, LD.DISTRICT JUDGE (COMMERCIAL COURT-06), WEST DISTRICT, ROOM No. 403, EXTENSION BUILDING (NEW), FOURTH FLOOR, TIS HAZARI COURT, DELHI.

SUMMON FOR PUBLICATION PROCLAMATION REQUIRING ATTENDANCE OF DEFENDANT (Under Order 5 Rule 20 of the Code of Civil Procedure)

CS (Comm.)No.30/2023

CANARA BANK,Plaintiff Vs SHUBHAM CLOTH AND GARMENTSDefendant

To, (Defendant No. 2)

ISHWAR CHAND GUPTA S/O SH. KIRODI MAL, R/O H. No. 3B, RATAN BAGH, NEAR RAILWAY ROAD, NANGLOI, DELHI 110041 WHEREAS you, in view of the reports already received, cannot be served in ordinary way. It is hereby notified that if you shall not defend the case on the 23rd day of October 2024, the day fixed for the final disposal, it will be heard and determined ex-parte. GIVEN under my hand and the seal of the court on this 12th Day of September, 2024. Sd/- JUDGE

IN THE COURT OF SH. NARESH KUMAR MALHOTRA, LD.DISTRICT JUDGE (COMMERCIAL COURT-06), WEST DISTRICT, ROOM No. 403, EXTENSION BUILDING (NEW), FOURTH FLOOR, TIS HAZARI COURT, DELHI.

SUMMON FOR PUBLICATION PROCLAMATION REQUIRING ATTENDANCE OF DEFENDANT (Under Order 5 Rule 20 of the Code of Civil Procedure)

CS (Comm.)No.1003/2022

CANARA BANK,Plaintiff Vs MIS KRISHNA FOOTWEARDefendant

To, (Defendant No. 1)

M/S KRISHNA FOOTWEAR, THROUGH ITS PROP. KRISHAN KUMAR R/O C-104, CAMP No. 2, J.J. COLONY, NANGLOI, NEW DELHI 110041 WHEREAS you, in view of the reports already received, cannot be served in ordinary way. It is hereby notified that if you shall not defend the case on the 23rd day of October 2024, the day fixed for the final disposal, it will be heard and determined ex-parte. GIVEN under my hand and the seal of the court on this 12th Day of September, 2024. Sd/- JUDGE

IN THE COURT OF SH. NARESH KUMAR MALHOTRA, LD.DISTRICT JUDGE (COMMERCIAL COURT-06), WEST DISTRICT, ROOM No. 403, EXTENSION BUILDING (NEW), FOURTH FLOOR, TIS HAZARI COURT, DELHI.

SUMMON FOR PUBLICATION PROCLAMATION REQUIRING ATTENDANCE OF DEFENDANT (Under Order 5 Rule 20 of the Code of Civil Procedure)

CS (Comm.)No.30/2023

CANARA BANK,Plaintiff Vs SHUBHAM CLOTH AND GARMENTSDefendant

To, (Defendant No. 2)

ISHWAR CHAND GUPTA S/O SH. KIRODI MAL, R/O H. No. 3B, RATAN BAGH, NEAR RAILWAY ROAD, NANGLOI, DELHI 110041 WHEREAS you, in view of the reports already received, cannot be served in ordinary way. It is hereby notified that if you shall not defend the case on the 23rd day of October 2024, the day fixed for the final disposal, it will be heard and determined ex-parte. GIVEN under my hand and the seal of the court on this 12th Day of September, 2024. Sd/- JUDGE

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 **Andhra Pradesh State Co-operative Marketing Federation Limited**
#56-2-11, Phase 3rd Marked Lay at No. 49/8A, APIC Colony Road, Jawahar Auto Nagar, Vijayawada, Vijayawada (Urbans), NTR (Andhra Pradesh) – 520007. P- 7083685111

E-AUCTIONS NOTIFICATION

AP Marked invites bidders for the disposal of 12, 102 MTs of Jowar procured from farmers during the Rabi 2023-24 season. The auction will commence w.e.f. **20-09-2024 at 11:30 AM** through the Markray Portal on a daily basis until the entire quantity is disposed. For more details, please visit the official website, (<https://marked.ap.gov.in/markray/>) Contact: 9133215888.

Sd/- GENERAL MANAGER

जा.क्र. 3050/2024-25 दि. 16.09.2024 नगर परिषद परळी वैजनाथ जि.बीड

नगर परिषद परळी वैजनाथ जि.बीड

ई-निविदा

ई-निविदा क्र. (04,05)/बांधकाम विभाग/2024-25

मुख्याधिकारी नगर परिषद परळी वैजनाथ यांनी ई-निविदा प्रणालीद्वारे निविदा सुचना दिनांक **16.09.2024 रोजी वेळ 18.00** वाजता पुढील सांकेतीक स्वचाकर प्रतियुक्त केली आहे.

www.mahatenders.gov.in या वेबसाईटवर निविदा नमुना पहावा. निविदा बाबत सुचना सदर सांकेतीक स्वचाकर प्रतियुक्त केल्या आहेत. तेव्हा इच्छुक निविदा घारकांनी दि. **23.09.2024 रोजी वेळ 18.00** वाजेपर्यंत निविदा भरवी.

स्वाक्षरीत मुख्याधिकारी तथा प्रशासक नगर परिषद परळी वैजनाथ

NICDIT KRISHNAPATNAM INDUSTRIAL CITY DEVELOPMENT LIMITED (NKICDL).

1st Floor, IHC Corporate, Plot No.3,4,6, Industrial Park, Mangalagiri, Guntur District



केनरा बैंक Canara Bank

ASSET RECOVERY MANAGEMENT BRANCH (D.P.- 17415)
GROUND FLOOR, LUV KUSH TOWER, EXHIBITION ROAD,
PATNA-800001, Mobile No-8102916048, Email-cb17415@canarabank.com

SALE NOTICE

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Properties under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower (s), Director (s) and Guarantor (s) that the below described immovable properties mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the Constructive possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer Canara Bank, will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is". Details are as under :-

(30 days E-Auction Sale Notice For Sale of Immovable Properties)

Sl. No.	Name / Address / Contact No of the Branch	Name of A/c. Borrower Guarantor / Mortgagor	Outstanding in Rs.	Details of Property	Reserve Price / EMD / Bid Multiplier Amount /	Date & Time of Auction/EMD
1.	ARM Branch, Patna, Mob No- 8102916048	a) M/s Parampur Rice Mill Pvt. Ltd. b) Mr. Ranjit Singh (Director) S/o Sri Rajbansh Singh c) Mr. Rameshwar Singh (Director) S/o Sri Rajbansh Singh d) Mr. Rajbansh Singh (Guarantor) S/o Late Bachcha Singh All a,b,c,d residing at - Village- Raipur Chore, Shivasagar, District- Rohtas, Bihar, Pin Code-801123	30.11.2016 Rs-3,09,11,350/- (Rupees Three Crore Nine Lakh Eleven Thousand Three Hundred Fifty Only) along with pendente lite and future interest at the contractual rate from 30.11.2016 with cost till realization, as per R.P case no.437/2017 arising out of O.A.no.878/2016.	EMT of Land & Building in the name of M/s Parampur Rice Mill Pvt. Ltd., Plot No. 2293, Khata No. 54, Thana No. 392, Halka No. 7, Mauza Raipur Chore, P.O- Raipur Chore, P.S - Shivasagar, District - Rohtas, Bihar. Area: 2 Acre 30 Decimal Boundary:- North- Pokhara, South - Bimlesh Singh, East- Road & Nij, West- Banarasi Singh.	Rs.1,12,31,000/- EMD-11,23,100/- Rs.10000/-	Date & Time of Auction- 21.10.2024 Time: 11.30 am to 1.30 pm EMD Date & Time- 19.10.2024, 10.00 AM TO 4.00 PM

Date: 16.09.2024
Place : Patna

For Detailed Terms and Conditions of the Sale, Please refer to the link provided in www.canarabank.com

Authorised officer
Canara Bank

ANDHRA PRADESH MEDICAL SERVICES & INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

2nd Floor, Plot No.9, Survey No.49, IT Park, Mangalagiri-522503
email: aphmhidc@gmail.com & ed.apmsidc16@gmail.com

Tender Notice No.4/APMSIDC/2024-25, Dt: 17-09-2024

APMSIDC invites tenders through e-procurement platform (<https://tender.aeprocurement.gov.in>) for **Equipment Wing** : Procurement & Supply of 1. food laboratory equipment to Guntur, Tirupati, Visakhapatnam. 2. Equipment and other items to various Govt. Hospitals in A.P under NHM Funds. 3. Equipment & other items to DSH Hospitals in Andhra Pradesh. 4. Equipment & other items to DME Hospitals in Andhra Pradesh. 5. Equipment and other items under CSS Scheme. 6. Equipment and furniture items to APSACS. 7. Equipment to cancer care centers for 5 Districts (Kurnool, Kakinada, Anantapur, Visakhapatnam, Guntur). 8. Equipment and other items to new medical colleges/Hospitals. 9. Equipment to Existing Medical Colleges under PG Seats. 10. Equipment and other items under 15th finance commission. 11. Identification of the service provider to implement the Tele-Radiology services at DSH Hospitals. 12. Procurement of 20-seater buses to establish the preventive oncology units. 13. Medical equipment for Kidney care Palasa research center. 14. Medical equipment for Trauma Care centers in AP.

For detailed notification and further details please visit the web site <http://msidc.ap.nic.in> & www.tender.aeprocurement.gov.in

APMSIDC will reserve the right to cancel the tenders at any time without assigning any reasons.

Sd/- MANAGING DIRECTOR

DIPR No.3169PP/CL/ADVT/11/2021-22, Dt: 18/09/2024

SALUTE THE SOLDIER

CENTRAL RESERVE POLICE FORCE

JAMMU & KASHMIR

19 September 1965

Shaheed Constable Ram Prakash of 3 Battalion of CRPF had been on deputation with ITBP since 1962. When Chinese troops attacked the Zanskar sub post in Dungti, Ladakh, Constable Ram Prakash and his team bravely defended their position despite being outnumbered. Tragically, he sustained grave injuries and ultimately made the supreme sacrifice in the line of duty.



SHAHEED CT RAM PRAKASH
3 BN
18-9-1941 TO
19-9-1965



SHAHEED CT MAHADEV MINJ
2 BN
1-5-1973 TO
19-9-2012

CHHATTISGARH

19 September 2012

On the 19th of September 2012, troops of 2 Battalion of CRPF moved out of their camp in Sukma to sanitize the helipad area. As the troops were establishing pickets to cover the area, the Maoists hiding in the dense forest launched a brutal attack at one of the pickets. The picket was manned by Shaheed Constable Mahadev Minj, HC Praveen Kumar and Constable Suresh V. On receiving the fire, the three daredevils charged at the Maoists and opened heavy fire on them. Soon some other Maoists also attacked this picket from another direction. On receiving the fire from two directions, Shaheed Ct Mahadev Minj advanced ferociously and inflicted heavy casualties on the Maoists, but in the endeavour the braveheart himself received severe injuries and attained martyrdom after neutralising 3-4 Maoists. For his unparalleled valour and bravery, Shaheed Constable Mahadev Minj was awarded the President's Police Medal for Gallantry posthumously.

कार्यपालक अभियन्ता का कार्यालय,

ग्रामीण कार्य विभाग, कार्य प्रमण्डल, लातेहार

अल्पकालीन ई- निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना

ई-निविदा संख्या :- 05/2024-25/EE/RWD/LATEHAR दिनांक : 18.09.2024

क्र०	आईडीटी फिकेशन सं० / पैकेज सं०	प्रखंड	कार्य का नाम	प्राक्कलित राशि (रुपये में) अंक में	कार्य समाप्ति की तिथि
1	RWD/LATEHAR 20/2024-25	बरवाडीह	हेहेगडा स्कूल से हेहेगडा रेलवे स्टेशन माया कृष्णा यादव के घर तक पथ निर्माण।	286.232	15 माह
2	RWD/LATEHAR 21/2024-25	बरवाडीह	ग्राम पंचायत छेवा पंचायत बदन पी०एन०डी०ए०ए०ए० रोड से आंगनबाड़ी होते हुए कोयल नदी तक पथ निर्माण।	342.804	15 माह
3	RWD/LATEHAR 22/2024-25	बरवाडीह	पंचायत मंगरा ग्राम अमडीहा में पी०एन०डी०ए०ए०ए० रोड अमडीहा जयमन सिंह के घर से पी०एन०डी० रोड डोयनी यात्रीशेड तक पथ निर्माण।	278.780	15 माह
4	RWD/LATEHAR 23/2024-25	बरवाडीह	ग्राम पंचायत छेवा पोस्ट ऑफिस पी०एन०डी० रोड से बरसी होते हुए कोयल नदी तक पथ निर्माण।	197.430	12 माह
5	RWD/LATEHAR 24/2024-25	बरवाडीह	ग्राम पंचायत मोरवाईकला में ईश्वर सिंह के घर से महावीर मंदिर तक पथ निर्माण।	282.741	15 माह

1. वेबसाइट में निविदा प्रकाशन की तिथि : 25.09.2024
2. ई-निविदा प्राप्ति की अंतिम तिथि एवं समय : 02.10.2024 अपराह्न 5:00 बजे तक।
3. निविदा खोलने की तिथि एवं समय : 04.10.2024 अपराह्न 03:30 बजे।
4. निविदा आमंत्रित करने वाले पदाधिकारी का नाम एवं पता, कार्यपालक अभियन्ता, ग्रामीण कार्य विभाग, कार्य प्रमंडल, लातेहार पिन – 829206।
5. ई-निविदा प्रकोष्ठ का दूरभाष सं० – 06565245038

विस्तृत जानकारी के लिए वेबसाइट www.jharkhandtenders.gov.in में देखा जा सकता है।

कार्यपालक अभियन्ता
ग्रामीण कार्य विभाग, कार्य प्रमण्डल, लातेहार

PR 335924 REQ(24-25)D

कार्यपालक अभियन्ता का कार्यालय

ग्रामीण विकास विशेष प्रमंडल, राँची

अल्पकालीन ई-निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना

ई- निविदा संख्या – RDD/SD/RANCHI/19/2024-25 E-tender

1. कार्य की विस्तृत विवरणी:

क्र० सं०	कार्य का नाम	प्राक्कलित राशि (लाख में)	अग्रघन की राशि	परिमाण विपत्र का मूल्य	कार्य पूर्ण करने की अवधि
1	राँची जिला के खेलाही प्रखण्ड अंतर्गत लपरा- पंचायत स्थित बकुलियाटाई एवं लखोघवा के बीच नाला पर आर०सी०सी० पुलिया निर्माण।	253.652	5,07,400	10,000	18 माह
2	राँची जिला के प्रखण्ड चान्की स्थित चामा पंचायत के ग्राम चामा सखुआटाई मुख्य पथ पर सखुआटाई नदी पर पुल निर्माण।	271.2733	5,42,800	10,000	18 माह
3	राँची जिला के रातू प्रखण्ड अंतर्गत पंचायत सुपडील ग्राम-शिवन नगर में पण्डरा से एजेडा चौक को जोड़ने वाली पण्डरा पर पुल निर्माण।	276.1001	5,52,300	10,000	18 माह
4	राँची जिला के लापुग प्रखण्ड में ग्राम ककरिया से लापुग मुख्य पथ पर कनकी नदी पर पुल निर्माण।	307.767	6,15,600	10,000	18 माह

2. वेबसाइट में निविदा प्रकाशन की तिथि – 23.09.2024
3. ई-निविदा प्राप्ति की तिथि एवं समय – दिनांक 25.09.2024 से दिनांक 01.10.2024 को अपराह्न 5:00 बजे तक
4. ई-निविदा खोलने का स्थान – कार्यपालक अभियन्ता का कार्यालय, ग्रामीण विकास विशेष प्रमंडल, राँची।
5. ई-निविदा खोलने की तिथि एवं समय – 04.10.2024 अपराह्न 2:00 बजे
6. ई-निविदा आमंत्रित करने वाले पदाधिकारी का नाम एवं पता :- कार्यपालक अभियन्ता, ग्रामीण विकास विशेष प्रमंडल, राँची।
7. ई-निविदा प्रकोष्ठ का दूरभाष सं० – 79033003903
8. परिमाण विपत्र की राशि घट-बढ़ सकती है तदनुसार अग्रघन की राशि देय होगी।
9. निविदा शुल्क एवं अग्रघन की राशि केवल **Online Mode** द्वारा स्वीकार्य होगी।
10. निविदा शुल्क एवं अग्रघन की राशि का ई-भुगतान जिस खाता से किया जायेगा, उसी खाते में अग्रघन की राशि वापस होगी। अगर खाता को बंद कर दिया जाता है, तो उसकी सारी जवाबदेही आपकी होगी।

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POSSESSION NOTICE (FOR MOVABLE & IMMOVABLE PROPERTY)

Whereas the undersigned being the Authorized Officer of the Punjab National Bank under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets & Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002, and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13 read with the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, issued demand notices on the dates mentioned against each account calling upon the respective borrowers to repay the amount as mentioned against each account within 60 days from the date of notice(s)/ date of receipt of the said notice(s).

The borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred to him under section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said Rules on the date mentioned against account. The borrowers/ guarantor/ mortgagor/legal heirs in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the properties and any dealing with the property will be subject to the charge of Punjab National Bank for the amounts and interest thereon. The borrowers attention in invited to provisions of sub-section 8 of section 13 of the act, in the respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

Sl. No.	Name of the branch Name & Address of the Borrower/ Guarantors	Location & details of the property	Date of Notice u/s 13(2) & 13(4)	Date of Notice u/s 13(4) Physical Possession
1	M/s. SUNITA COLD STORAGE PVT. LTD. At-Khontaha, Post-Birpur, PS-Birpur, Dist.-Supaul Name of Directors/ Partners: 1.Smt. Sunita Singh, (Director), W/o-Shri om Prakash Singh, Add.-Kosi Colony, Sri Nagar hata, K. Hatt, purnea -854301 2.Sri Om prakash Singh, S/o-Late Durga Prasad Add.-Kosi Colony, Sri Nagar hata, K. Hatt, Purnea-854301 BO: ARARIA (493300)	Hypothecation of Plant and machinery and Equitable mortgage of land and building bearing 1. Deed No. 3310 dt. 31.05.2010 Mauza, Khontaha, Tauzi No. 5662, Thana No. 03, Khata No. 92, Khesra No. 933, Area 16.50 Decimal Boundary:- N- Purchaser(Sunita singh), S- Purchaser (Sunita singh), E-Rajesh pd. Gupta, W- Hari Krishna Gupta 2. Deed No. 3297, dt. 31.05.2010 Mauza, Khontaha, Tauzi No. 5662, Thana No. 03, Khata No. 108, Khesra No. 954, 955, Area 50.5 Decimal Boundary:-N-Purchaser (Sunita singh), S- Purchaser (Sunita singh), E-Rajesh Pd. Gupta W- Hari Krishna Gupta 3. Deed No. 3311, dt. 31.05.2010 Mauza, Khontaha, Tauzi No. 5662, Thana No. 03, Khata No. 92, Khesra No. 934, Area 26.5 Decimal Boundary:- N- Purchaser(Sunita singh), S-Kachhi sadak, E-Rajesh Pd. Gupta, W-Hari Krishna Gupta 4. Deed No. 3298, dt. 31.05.2010 Mauza, Khontaha, Tauzi No. 5662, Thana No. 03, Khata No. 13, Khesra No. 953, Area 02 Decimal, Boundary:N-pakki sadak, S- Purchaser (Sunita singh), E-Rajesh Pd. Gupta, W-hari Krishna Gupta 5. Deed No. 4261, dt. 14.07.2010, Mauza, Khon taha, Tauzi No. 5662, Thana No. 03, Khata No. 96, 186, 78, 122, 108, 92(old) Khesra No. 1136, 1095, 1093, 1094, 1138, 1139(New), Area 73 Decimal Boundary:-N-Main Road, S-Soling Road, E-Pramad Ku. Gupta, W-Sunita singh 6. Deed No. 4260, dt. 14.07.2010, Mauza, Khontaha, Tauzi No. 5662, Thana No. 03, Khata No. 103, Khesra No. 1051(New), Area 29 Decimal, Boundary:-N-Main Road, S-Main soling Road, E-Ajay Ku. Gupta, W-Sunita singh	13(2)- 13.05.2015 13(4) (Symbolic Possession) 04.01.2020 Rs :52708571.00 with further interest costs and others charges and expenses thereon	13.09.2024 (PHYSICAL POSSESSION) Rs:52708571.00 with further interest costs and others charges and expenses thereon

Authorized Officer

बैंक ऑफ इंडिया Bank of India

ZONAL OFFICE: SIWAN ZONE
1st Floor, Tarwara More, Siwan - 841226, E-Mail- zo.siwan@bankofindia.co.in

POSSESSION NOTICE

(Under Rule 8 (1) of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002)

Whereas, The undersigned being the authorized officer of the **Bank of India** under securitization and reconstruction of financial assets and enforcement of security interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the security interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002 issued a demand notice as detailed in the table hereunder written calling upon the below mentioned Borrowers to repay the amount shown in the respective notices mentioned against their names in the table within 60 Days from the date of receipt of the said notice. The Borrowers / Guarantors mentioned below having failed to repay the amount shown in the respective notices issued U/S 13 (2) within the stipulated time, notice is hereby given to the aforementioned borrowers/ guarantors and the public in general that the undersigned has taken symbolic possession of the property (Secured Assets) Described in the table given below, in exercise of powers conferred on me under section 13(4) of the said Act Read with Rule 8 of the said Rules on the date(s) mentioned against the respective property. The aforesaid borrowers / Guarantors in particulars and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the properties/ies mentioned in the table hereunder written and any dealings with the said properties/ies will be subject to the charge of the **BANK OF INDIA**. For the amount shown in the respective column of the table and interest thereon.

Name of Borrower	(1) Branch (2) Date & Amount as per Notice U/S 13 (2)	Description of the Immovable Property	Date of Possession of Assets
Shri Ajay Kumar S/o Late Vishwanath Bhagat / M/s Kisan Sewa Kendra, Village- Bakarpur, P.S- Sonepur, District-Saran	(i) Sonepur (ii) 01-06-2024 Rs.23,24,611.28 (Rs. Twenty three lakh twenty four thousand six hundred eleven & twenty eight paise) and interest thereon.	All that part and parcel of the property consisting of Mouza Bakarpur, under PS Sonepur, Khata no: 83 Plot no: 487 & 488 tauzi No: 2954 Thana No 72 vide Registered Mortgage deed no: 1339 date 04-06-2020, area 1 katha 14 dhurs 15 dhurki Within the registration Sub-District Sonepur and District Saran. Bounded:- North-NH-19 Road, South-Self, East-Shyambabu Prasad, West-Lalbabu Prasad	17.09.2024

Date- 17.09.2024
Place- Sonepur

Authorised Officer
Bank of India, Siwan Zone

पंजाब नैशनल बैंक Punjab National Bank

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Circle SASTRA Centre, Darbhanga, GM Road, Darbhanga - 846004 Email : cs9217@pnb.co.in

DEMAND NOTICE UNDER SARFAESI Act' 2002

This Demand Notice is hereby given under section 13(2) of the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (54 of 2002), read with rule 3, of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 hereinafter calling upon the under mentioned Borrowers/Guarantors to repay the amount outstanding for the Term Loan/Cash Credit/ODD granted to them/ on their Guarantee, within 60 days from the date of Publication of this notice. We hereby serve upon you this notice U/s 13(2) of SARFAESI act, 2002 as the accounts have become NPA due to non-payment of interest and installments as per terms of sanction. In the circumstances, we are unable to permit continuation of the above facility granted to you. We, therefore, hereby recall the above facilities/ the guarantee given by you is hereby invoked. If you fail to repay the Bank the below mentioned amount with further interest and incidental expenses, costs, etc., in terms of this notice u/s 13(2) of the Act, the Bank will exercise all or any of the rights detailed under sub-section (4) of section 13 and under other applicable provisions of the said Act. You are also put on notice that in terms of sub-section 13 of section 13 you shall not after publication/receipt of this notice transfer by sale, lease or otherwise other than in the ordinary course of business, the said secured assets detailed below of this notice without obtaining written consent of the Bank. Your attention is hereby drawn invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act in respect of time available to you to redeem the secure assets. This notice is issued without prejudice to the bank's rights in the suit/litigation pending before DRT/Court. The details of the accounts and secured assets along with amount outstanding with interest and other charges and expenses thereon are given below.

S. No.	NAME OF ACCOUNT & BRANCH	(A) Name of the owner & Description of the property mortgaged (B) Amount outstanding
01	PNB, (eOBC) SAMASTIPUR, (162610) Date of Demand Notice: 25.04.2024 Date of NPA: 10.05.2021 Demand notice 13(2) return reason: - Insufficient Address Return by Indian post.	(A) 1. Hypothecation of stocks, book debts, receivables etc. 2. All the piece and parcel of land along with building constructed thereon registered in the name of Sri Vijay Kumar Singh S/o Sri Arun Kumar Singh admeasuring 1595 Sq.Ft., situated at Mauza-Bhagwanpur, Chakshekh, under Nagar Panchayat Dalsingh sarai, ward No.1 Thana Dalsinghsarai, Thana No. 65, Anchal-Dalsinghsarai, District Samastipur, Khata No 40(O) Khesra No. 511(O), 819(N), Deed No- 6251, Dated 12-11-2014. Boundaries:- North- Nij Rasta 10FT., South- Dashrath Jha, East- Part of old Plot No. 511, West- Jyoti Thakur (B) Rs. 173,883.22 (Rupees Seven Lakh Thirteen Thousand Eight Hundred Eighty Three and Twenty Two paise only) as on 31-03-2024 with further interest w.e.f. 01/03/2024
02	PNB, Marwari College, (465000) Date of Demand Notice: 17.05.2024 Date of NPA: 01.05.2024 Demand notice 13(2) return reason: - Insufficient Address Return by Indian post.	(A) Land and construction thereon situated at Mauza - Gangwara, PO - Laxmisagar, P.S.-LNMU, Darbhanga, Bihar, Deed No.-8746, Dt. 07.06.2011 in the name of Shanti Devi W/o Prabhas Kumar Mishra, Thana No. 510, Khata No. 565, Khesra No. -1077(N), 162(O), 101, 100, 104, 109, 110, 111, 112, 113, 114, 115, 116, 117, 118, 119, 120, 121, 122, 123, 124, 125, 126, 127, 128, 129, 130, 131, 132, 133, 134, 135, 136, 137, 138, 139, 140, 141, 142, 143, 144, 145, 146, 147, 148, 149, 150, 151, 152, 153, 154, 155, 156, 157, 158, 159, 160, 161, 162, 163, 164, 165, 166, 167, 168, 169, 170, 171, 172, 173, 174, 175, 176, 177, 178, 179, 180, 181, 182, 183, 184, 185, 186, 187, 188, 189, 190, 191, 192, 193, 194, 195, 196, 197, 198, 199, 200, 201, 202, 203, 204, 205, 206, 207, 208, 209, 210, 211, 212, 213, 214, 215, 216, 217, 218, 219, 220, 221, 222, 223, 224, 225, 226, 227, 228, 229, 230, 231, 232, 233, 234, 235, 236, 237, 238, 239, 240, 241, 242, 243, 244, 245, 246, 247, 248, 249, 250, 251, 252, 253, 254, 255, 256, 257, 258, 259, 260, 261, 262, 263, 264, 265, 266, 267, 268, 269, 270, 271, 272, 273, 274, 275, 276, 277, 278, 279, 280, 281, 282, 283, 284, 285, 286, 287, 288, 289, 290, 291, 292, 293, 294, 295, 296, 297, 298, 299, 300, 301, 302, 303, 304, 305, 306, 307, 308, 309, 310, 311, 312, 313, 314, 315, 316, 317, 318, 319, 320, 321, 322, 323, 324, 325, 326, 327, 328, 329, 330, 331, 332, 333, 334, 335, 336, 337, 338, 339, 340, 341, 342, 343, 344, 345, 346, 347, 348, 349, 350, 351, 352, 353, 354, 355, 356, 357, 358, 359, 360, 361, 362, 363, 364, 365, 366, 367, 368, 369, 370, 371, 372, 373, 374, 375, 376, 377, 378, 379, 380, 381, 382, 383, 384, 385, 386, 387, 388, 389, 390, 391, 392, 393, 394, 395, 396, 397, 398, 399, 400, 401, 402, 403, 404, 405, 406, 407, 408, 409, 410, 411, 412, 413, 414, 415, 416, 417, 418, 419, 420, 421, 422, 423, 424, 425, 426, 427, 428, 429, 430, 431, 432, 433, 434, 435, 436, 437, 438, 439, 440, 441, 442, 443, 444, 445, 446, 447, 448, 449, 450, 451, 452, 453, 454, 455, 456, 457, 458, 459, 460, 461, 462, 463, 464, 465, 466, 467, 468, 469, 470, 471, 472, 473, 474, 475, 476, 477, 478, 479, 480, 481, 482, 483, 484, 485, 486, 487, 488, 489, 490, 491, 492, 493, 494, 495, 496, 497, 498, 499, 500, 501, 502, 503, 504, 505, 506, 507, 508, 509, 510, 511, 512, 513, 514, 515, 516, 517, 518, 519, 520, 521, 522, 523, 524, 525, 526, 527, 528, 529, 530, 531, 532, 533, 534, 535, 536, 537, 538, 539, 540, 541, 542, 543, 544, 545, 546, 547, 548, 549, 550, 551, 552, 553, 554, 555, 556, 557, 558, 559, 560, 561, 562, 563, 564, 565, 566, 567, 568, 569, 570, 571, 572, 573, 574, 575, 576, 577, 578, 579, 580, 581, 582, 583, 584, 585, 586, 587, 588, 589, 590, 591, 592, 593, 594, 595, 596, 597, 598, 599, 600, 601, 602, 603, 604, 605, 606, 607, 608, 609, 610, 611, 612, 613, 614, 615, 616, 617, 618, 619, 620, 621, 622, 623, 624, 625, 626, 627, 628, 629, 630, 631, 632, 633, 634, 635, 636, 637, 638, 639, 640, 641, 642, 643, 644, 645, 646, 647, 648, 649, 650, 651, 652, 653, 654, 655, 656, 657, 658, 659, 660, 661, 662, 663, 664, 665, 666, 667, 668, 669, 670, 671, 672, 673, 674, 675, 676, 677, 678, 679, 680, 681, 682, 683, 684, 685, 686, 687, 688, 689, 690, 691, 692, 693, 694, 695, 696, 697, 698, 699, 700, 701, 702, 703, 704, 705, 706, 707, 708, 709, 710, 711, 712, 713, 714, 715, 716, 717, 718, 719, 720, 721, 722, 723, 724, 725, 726, 727, 728, 729, 730, 731, 732, 733, 734, 735, 736, 737, 738, 739, 740, 741, 742, 743, 744, 745, 746, 747, 748, 749, 750, 751, 752, 753, 754, 755, 756, 757, 758, 759, 760, 761, 762, 763, 764, 765, 766, 767, 768, 76



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EXPLAINED FOREIGN POLICY

Why India wants ‘review & modification’ of Indus Waters Treaty

HARIKISHAN SHARMA
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 18

A YEAR-AND-A-HALF after New Delhi issued a notice to Islamabad seeking the “modification” of the Indus Waters Treaty (IWT) in January 2023, India has once again sent a formal notice to Pakistan, this time seeking the “review and modification” of the treaty. The latest notice, issued under Article XII (3) of the IWT (like the one issued last year), is qualitatively different — the word “review” effectively signals New Delhi’s intent to revoke and renegotiate the 64-year-old treaty. Article XII (3) states: “The provisions of this Treaty may from time to time be modified by a duly ratified treaty concluded for that purpose between the two Governments”.

What is the IWT?

The treaty between India and Pakistan was signed on September 19, 1960, for the use of water available in the Indus and its tributaries. It was signed in Karachi by then Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru and then Pakistan President Mohammed Ayub Khan after nine years of negotiations arranged by

the World Bank. According to the IWT, India enjoys the “unrestricted use” of the three “Eastern Rivers [Beas, Ravi, Sutlej]... except as otherwise expressly provided” whereas Pakistan got control of the three “Western Rivers” [Indus, Chenab, Jhelum]. According to Article III (1) of the IWT, “India is under obligation to let flow” waters of the Western Rivers to Pakistan. In effect, the treaty gave India about 30% of the water carried out by the “Indus Rivers System” while Pakistan got 70% of the waters. **Why does India want to renegotiate the treaty?** Sources said India’s latest notification highlights “fundamental and unforeseen changes in circumstances” that require a reassessment of obligations made under the IWT. Among New Delhi’s concerns, sources said, are the “change in population demographics, environmental issues and the need to accelerate development of clean energy to meet India’s emission targets, and the impact of persistent cross-border terrorism”. Moreover, the two notifications come amidst a prolonged controversy over the construction of two hydel power projects by India

in Jammu & Kashmir — one on Kishanganga, a tributary of Jhelum, in Bandipora district, and the other (Ratle Hydroelectric Project) on Chenab in Kishtwar district. Both are “run-of-the-river” projects, meaning they generate electricity (330 MW and 850 MW respectively) using the natural flow of the river, and without obstructing its course. However, Pakistan has repeatedly alleged that both these projects violate the IWT. **What was behind the notice in January 2023?** At the time, New Delhi cited Islamabad’s continued “intransigence” in implementing the IWT by raising repeated objections to the two hydel projects. In 2015, Pakistan requested the appointment of a “Neutral Expert” to examine its technical objections to the projects. A year later, it unilaterally retracted this request and proposed that the Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA) adjudicate on its objections instead. India refused to engage in the PCA mechanism and made a separate request for the matter to be referred to a Neutral Expert. Sources said Pakistan’s proposal for a PCA mechanism was in contravention to the

graded dispute settlement mechanism provided in Article IX of the IWT. According to the treaty, there is a sequential, three-level mechanism where disputes are first decided at the level of the Indus Commissioners of the two countries, then escalated to the Neutral Expert who is appointed by the World Bank, and only then escalated to the Hague-based PCA. The initiation of two simultaneous processes on the same questions — and their potentially contradictory outcomes — is not provided under any article of the IWT, and thus created an unprecedented, legally untenable situation. The World Bank in 2016 “paused” the initiation of the parallel processes and requested India and Pakistan to seek an amicable way out. However, despite multiple attempts by New Delhi, Islamabad has refused to discuss the issue during the five meetings of the Permanent Indus Commission from 2017 to 2022, a source said. In fact, at Pakistan’s continuing insistence, in 2022 the World Bank decided to initiate both the Neutral Expert and Court of Arbitration processes. This, along with the recommendation of a parliamentary stand-

ing committee in 2021, led to the January 2023 notice, the first in over six decades. In 2021, the Departmentally Related Standing Committees on Water Resources had noted that “although the IWT has stood the test of time... the Treaty was framed on the basis of knowledge and technology existing at the time of its agreement in the 1960s... Present day pressing issues such as climate change, global warming and environmental impact assessment etc. were not taken into account by the Treaty.” The committee, headed by the BJP’s Sanjay Jaiswal, had thus found that there is a need to “renegotiate the Treaty so as to establish some kind of institutional structure or legislative framework to address the impact of climate change on water availability in the Indus basin and other challenges which are not covered under the Treaty.” **So, what has changed since January 2023?** Here is a brief chronology of important events to have taken place since January 2023. **APRIL 17, 2023:** The sixth meeting of the Union Ministry’s Steering Committee on matters related to the IWT takes place. The

Committee met under the Jal Shakti Secretary, and saw the Foreign Secretary of India in attendance. “The meeting took stock of the ongoing modification process of the IWT,” the MEA said after the meeting. **JULY 06, 2023:** The PCA rules that it has the “competence” to consider matters concerning the Kishanganga and Ratle hydel projects. India responds by reiterating its “consistent and principled position” that the constitution of the “so-called Court of Arbitration” is in contravention of the provisions of the IWT. **SEPTEMBER 20-21, 2023:** A delegation from India, led by the Secretary, Department of Water Resources, attend a meeting of the Neutral Expert proceedings in the Kishanganga and Ratle matter in Vienna. Senior Advocate Harish Salve acts as India’s Lead Counsel in the meeting convened by the Neutral Expert, and attended by representatives of both India and Pakistan. After the meeting, India reiterates its “treaty-consistent” decision to not participate in the parallel proceedings conducted by “an illegally constituted” PCA on the same set of issues pertaining to the Kishanganga and Ratle projects.

EXPLAINED SCIENCE

EARTH TO TEMPORARILY GET A ‘MINI-MOON’: WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

ACCORDING TO a new study, the Earth’s gravitational field will temporarily capture a small asteroid, called 2024 PT5, in late September. The asteroid will stay for two months before flying off into space. While gaining such a “mini-moon” is not new for Earth, the phenomenon is rare — in most cases, asteroids either miss our planet, or burn up upon entering the Earth’s atmosphere. A team of scientists discovered 2024 PT5 on August 7, and published their findings in the journal *Research Notes of the American Astronomical Society* earlier this month.

What is a ‘mini-moon’?

Mini-moons are asteroids that fail to escape Earth’s gravity and end up orbiting the planet for some time. They are usually very small and hard to detect — only four mini-moons of Earth have ever been discovered, and none are still orbiting Earth, according to a report by The Planetary Society. “Some may actually have been space debris. The Gaia spacecraft was once mistaken for a minimoon, and so were rocket stages from the Chang’e 2 and Lunar Prospector missions,” the report said.

What do we know about 2024 PT5?

The asteroid was discovered with the help of the NASA-funded Asteroid Terrestrial-Impact Last Alert System (ATLAS). It is estimated to be just 33 feet long and is too small to be visible to the naked eye or through typical amateur telescopes. However, the asteroid is within the brightness range of telescopes used by professional astronomers.

Carlos de la Fuente Marcos, professor at the Complutense University of Madrid and lead author of the study, told *space.com* that 2024 PT5 has come to visit from “the Arjuna asteroid belt, a secondary asteroid belt made of space rocks that follow orbits very similar to that of Earth” at an average distance to the Sun of about 150 million kilometres. The asteroid could possibly be a “piece of ejecta from an impact on the moon”, Paul Chodas, the director of the Center for Near Earth Object Studies at NASA’s Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL), told *The New York Times*. This means that 2024 PT5 could be a small fragment of the actual Moon. Some researchers suggest that chances are 2024 PT5 does not qualify as a mini-moon. An asteroid has to orbit the Earth fully at least once — 2024 PT5 will perform a horseshoe-shaped orbit. Lance Benner, the principal investigator of the asteroid radar research program at the JPL, told *The NYT*: “It certainly won’t complete one full revolution in the Earth-moon system this fall, so I’m not sure I would classify it as a mini-moon.”

Why is this significant?

The observations of 2024 PT5 will help scientists expand the knowledge of asteroids that pass close to the Earth and those that sometimes collide with it. Many asteroids contain valuable minerals and water, which companies hope to extract one day and use for purposes such as rocket fuel.

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AJOY SINHA KARPURAM & ARJUN SENGUPTA
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 18

THE UNION Cabinet on Wednesday set the ball rolling on holding simultaneous elections to Lok Sabha, state Assemblies, and local government bodies, clearing the proposal of the High Level Committee on One Nation, One Election headed by former President Ram Nath Kovind. In its report submitted to President Droupadi Murmu on March 14, the Kovind Committee recommended a series of constitutional amendments to facilitate simultaneous elections at the central, state, and local levels. Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw told reporters that the move to simultaneous elections would be effected in two phases — in the first phase, Lok Sabha and Assembly elections will be aligned; the second phase, which will be held within 100 days of the first, will cover local body elections.

What happens after this?

The One Nation, One Election project hinges on two Constitution Amendment Bills being passed by Parliament, for which the government will need wide agreement across a range of parties. Since the BJP does not have a majority on its own in Lok Sabha, it will have to talk to its allies in the NDA, as well as the opposition parties. One way to build the required consensus is to refer the Constitution Amendment Bills to a parliamentary committee — this could be a parliamentary standing committee or a joint parliamentary committee. These House panels will have members of the opposition, and a consensus could come out of the discussions. The Centre will have to reach out to the states as well. To ensure that local bodies too, are included in the scheme of simultaneous elections, at least half the total number of states will have to ratify the required amendment to the Constitution (*more later*). While the BJP is currently in power in more than a dozen states, the coming Assembly elections in Haryana, Maharashtra, and Jharkhand, could alter this arithmetic.

What changes will be needed in the Constitution?
The first Constitution Amendment Bill to

HOW THE NUMBERS STACK UP IN PARLIAMENT

WHAT PARTIES TOLD PANEL

32 OF THE 47 parties that gave their opinion to the Kovind panel supported the idea; 15 opposed it. NDA ally TDP didn't give its opinion, but told *The Indian Express* that it backed One Nation, One Election in principle. The BSP was initially against it, but now has come out in support. ALL 32 PARTIES were either BJP allies, or friendly towards the party then. Now, the BJP has turned against the BJP. Of the 15 parties against the move, five are in power in states, including Congress.

PARLIAMENT PICTURE NOW

PARTIES THAT BACKED the idea of simultaneous elections before the Kovind panel have 271 members in Lok Sabha now. This number includes the 240 MPs from the BJP. **THE NDA**, including TDP and others who neither supported nor opposed simultaneous polls before the Kovind panel, has 293 MPs in Lok Sabha.

NUMBERS GAME IN LOK SABHA

A TWO-THIRDS majority of members present and voting is needed for the required constitutional amendment to go through — in the full House of



Kovind presents report to President Murmu in the presence of Home Minister Amit Shah. *File*

543, that works out to 362 MPs. **NDA HAS 293 MPs** — so there is a possibility of passage of the amendment only if 439 MPs vote on the Bill, and the remaining 104 abstain. Alternatively, the government will have to convince non-NDA parties to back it. **ARITHMETIC IN RAJYA SABHA** **NDA HAS 121 MPS**, including the six nominated members. The opposition INDIA bloc has 85 MPs. **IF ALL 250 members are present**, a simple majority would be 125 and two-thirds would be 164 MPs. Currently, there are 234 MPs in RS.

transition to a simultaneous election system will require a ‘special majority’ of both the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha. For this, two conditions have to be satisfied under Article 368 of the Constitution. First, half of the total membership of both Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha must vote in favour of the amendment. Second, of the members present and voting, two-thirds must vote in favour of the amendment. The second Constitution Amendment Bill will ensure that all local body elections (for municipalities and panchayats) are held within 100 days of the simultaneous elections. For this amendment to go through, an

additional condition apart from the two mentioned above must be fulfilled. This is because “local government” is a subject under the State List in the Seventh Schedule, which means only states have the power to pass laws on this subject. To amend the Constitution such that local body elections can take place alongside simultaneous elections, Article 368 stipulates that “the amendment shall also require to be ratified (agreed to) by the Legislatures of not less than one-half of the States” in the country.

What will happen in the event these Bills are passed by Parliament?

As SC hears a case on UP madrasa law, a profile of these institutions

ASAD REHMAN
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 18

THE NATIONAL Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) has told the Supreme Court that education imparted in *madrasas* “is not comprehensive and is therefore against the provisions of Right to Education Act”, and that textbooks in these institutions teach about the “supremacy of Islam”. The NCPCR made its submission on September 11 in a clutch of appeals against an Allahabad High Court order of March 22 that had declared the Uttar Pradesh Board of Madarsa Education Act, 2004 “unconstitutional” on the ground that it violated “the principle of secularism” and fundamental rights guaranteed under Article 14 of the Constitution. A Bench of Justices Vivek Chaudhary and Subhash Vidyarthi directed the state government to “take steps forthwith for accommodating the *madrasa* students in regular

schools” recognised under the UP primary and high school and intermediate education boards. The UP government had submitted “that no doubt the Madrasa Board is providing religious education and instructions to students, but the state has sufficient powers to impart such education under the Constitution and is rightly permitting such education”. On April 5, a Supreme Court Bench led by Chief Justice of India D Y Chandrachud stayed the High Court’s order. **Madrasas in history** *Madrasa* is an Arabic word for an educational institution. In the early centuries of Islam, mosques served also as places of education, but from the 10th century onward, *madrasas* came to acquire a distinct identity as institutions of religious and secular learning in the Islamic world. The earliest evidence of *madrasas* comes from Khorasan and Transoxania, corresponding to modern eastern and northern Iran,

central Asia, and Afghanistan. The bigger *madrasas* also had facilities for housing students, especially those from poor backgrounds. **Largest number in UP** As of 2018-19, there were 24,010 *madrasas* in India, 19,132 of which were recognised *madrasas*, and the remaining 4,878 were unrecognised, then Minister of Minority Affairs Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi told Rajya Sabha on February 3, 2020. Recognised *madrasas* come under the state boards for *madrasa* education; the unrecognised ones follow the curriculum prescribed by the bigger seminaries such as the Darul Uloom Nadwatul Ulama (Lucknow) and Darul Uloom Deoband. As many as 60% of the country’s *madrasas* were in Uttar Pradesh — 11,621 recognised, and 2,907 unrecognised *madrasas*. The sec-

ond highest number of *madrasas* were in Rajasthan — 2,464 recognised, and 29 unrecognised *madrasas*, according to statewide data presented by Naqvi. Several states and Union Territories, including Delhi, Assam, Punjab, Tamil Nadu, and Telangana had no recognised *madrasas*, the data showed. **Two broad categories** There are two categories of *madrasas* in India — Madrasa Darse Nizami, which are run as public charities, and are not bound to follow the school education curriculum of the state; and the Madrasa Darse Aliya, which are affiliated to the state’s *madrasa* education board (such as the Uttar Pradesh Board of Madrasa Education). More than 20 states have their own *madrasa* boards. State *madrasa* boards are governed by the state government con-

cerned; teachers and other officials at recognised *madrasas* are appointed by the state government. Some 1.69 lakh students sat for the UP *madrasa* education board examinations — equivalent to Class 10 and Class 12 — in 2023. UP and some other states also have a separate Sanskrit board. **NCERT, state curricula** Education is similar to school and higher education. *Madrasa* students study to be *Maulvi* (equivalent to Class 10), *Alim* (equivalent to Class 12), *Kamil* (Bachelor’s degree), and *Fazil* (Master’s). The medium of education in the charitable Madrasa Darse Nizami is Arabic, Urdu, and Persian. The Madrasa Darse Aliya use either textbooks published by the state textbook corporation or agency, or the curriculum and textbooks of the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT). Most *madrasa* boards in the country now follow the NCERT curriculum.

Mathematics, Science, Hindi, English, and Sociology are compulsory subjects. There is also an optional paper, in which students have the choice of studying Sanskrit or *Deeniyyat* (including the Quran and other religious teachings). Hindu religious scriptures and other religious teachings are taught in the Sanskrit optional paper. **Funded by state govts** The bulk of the funding for *madrasas* comes from the respective state governments. The central government has a Scheme for Providing Education to Madrasas/Minorities (SPEMM), under which financial assistance is provided to *madrasas* and minority institutions across the country. There are two sub-schemes under SPEMM — a Scheme for Providing Quality Education in Madrasas (SPQEM) and Infrastructure Development of Minority Institutes (IDMI). SPEMM was transferred from the Ministry of Minority Affairs to the Ministry of Education in April 2021.

REPATRIATION FRAUGHT WITH COMPLICATIONS

Indian oil PSUs’ dividends stuck in Russia balloon to around \$900 mn

SUKALP SHARMA
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 18

INDIA’S PUBLIC sector oil companies’ stuck dividend income from their Russian investments has ballooned to around \$900 million as the companies have been unable to work out a mechanism with the Russians to repatriate that money or use it in bilateral trade between the two countries, according to sources in the know.

Dividend payments received by ONGC Videsh (OVL), Oil India (OIL), Indian Oil Corporation (IOC), and Bharat Petroleum Corporation (BPCL) arm Bharat PetroResources (BPRL) from their participation in Russian upstream oil projects are stuck in their bank accounts in Moscow due to payment channel-related restrictions in the aftermath of Russia’s February 2022 invasion of Ukraine. The dividend income is being credited into their bank accounts in roubles. The bank in Russia where the money is accumulating is understood to be the Commercial Indo Bank (CIBL), an affiliate of the State Bank of India (SBI).

The issue has been taken up time and again by the Indian com-



File

panies with their Russian partners over the past couple of years. It has also featured in government-to-government discussions between New Delhi and Moscow, but a resolution is still awaited due to various complications arising from Western sanctions on Moscow and its energy sector.

OVL, the overseas investment arm of Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC), holds 20 per cent stake in the Sakhalin-1 project and 26 per cent in the Vankor project. The consortium of IOC, OIL, and BPRL has 23.9 per cent share in Vankor and 29.9 per cent in the Taas-Yuryakh project. Around \$600-\$650 million of the stranded dividends belong to the consortium of IOC, OIL, and BPRL. Around \$250 million in dividends belonging to OVL are also stuck. With the money stuck in Russia, the only vi-

able options would be to use it for payments there, increase investments in Russia, and fund operational and capital expenditure requirements of existing projects, according to executives with the Indian oil companies.

However, the dividend payments being received are after deduction of operational expenses and there is no plan at present to invest more capital into the ongoing projects, said an oil company official who did not wish to be identified. Also, the companies are currently not exploring investments in any new project in Russia, which leaves using the money for payments as the only feasible option.

The only exception to this could be OVL, which is required to pay around \$600 million to Russia for its re-nomination as a share-

holder in the Sakhalin project. The company wants to use its stuck dividend income to partly settle this payment, and is in talks with Russian authorities. Following the outbreak of the Russia-Ukraine war and the consequent exit of American oil major ExxonMobil from Russia, the Sakhalin project was nationalised by Moscow. The other shareholders in the project are now required to put in their share of the abandonment fund—used to finance the decommissioning and closure of an oil and gas asset—for regaining their stake in it. Theoretically, the money can be used to partly pay for India’s crude oil purchases from Moscow. But according to a senior official with one of the consortium members, it is a proposition fraught with multiple challenges. Firstly, while IOC and BPCL do buy Russian oil, OIL does not. Secondly, the investments in Russian projects are through special purpose vehicles registered in overseas territories like Singapore.

This means that any payment dealing with Russian oil in this case would also come under jurisdiction of overseas territories, and not just Russia and India. It is worth noting here that there are

various Western sanctions against Russia and its energy sector. Therefore, cross payments for Russian oil using this dividend income could end up becoming an extremely complex exercise from taxation and accounting standpoints. The companies have been seeking the opinion of legal and international accounting experts to work a way out.

From being a marginal supplier of crude to India before the war in Ukraine, Russia has emerged as New Delhi’s biggest source of oil over the past year, overtaking heavyweights like Iraq and Saudi Arabia. Indian refiners started snapping up Russian crude, which was being offered at a discount by Moscow as the West began to shun Russian barrels.

Soon after the war in Ukraine broke out, a number of major Russian banks were banned from the Society for Worldwide Interbank Financial Telecommunication (SWIFT) financial transaction processing system, seriously constricting Moscow’s ability to access the global payments system. Russia also restricted repatriation of US dollars out of the country in a bid to curb foreign exchange volatility.

Trump brands India ‘big abuser’, signals US protectionism redux

RAVI DUTTA MISHRA
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 18

FORMER US President Donald Trump on Tuesday referred to India as a “very big abuser” of US-India trade relations during his reelection campaign rally, signalling that the Republican presidential nominee could impose increased tariffs on Indian goods if he were to win the November elections. Trump has frequently called India the “tariff king” citing high tariffs and earlier this month said he would introduce 100 per cent tariffs on countries attempting to move away from using the US dollar for international trade.

Trump’s position on trade relations with India gains importance as polls continue to predict a closely contested race against Democratic presidential nominee Kamala Harris. However, a Reuters/Ipsos poll conducted following the presidential debate between the two showed Harris marginally leading Trump 47 per cent to 42 per cent. Recent polls indicate Harris has further increased her lead.

India’s vulnerability to US tariffs

The US is India’s largest trade partner, with total bilateral trade nearing \$120 billion in FY24, only marginally higher than that with China. However, unlike China, India’s trade with the US is not only more balanced, but also sharply in India’s favour, making trade with the US a key source of foreign exchange earnings. Notably, India runs a goods trade deficit with nine of its ten top trading partners, with the US being the only major economy to which India exports more than it imports.

Despite efforts to diversify its exports, India’s dependence on the US has increased over the past decade. According to official data from 2022-2023, the US accounts for as much as 18 per cent of



File

India’s total exports, compared to 10 per cent in 2010-2011. Furthermore, India’s export basket to the US is well diversified, benefiting a range of industries from labour-intensive textiles to capital-intensive electronics and engineering sectors.

The latest official data for August 2024 showed that India exported goods worth \$6.5 billion to the US, a figure higher than the combined exports to the next three destinations – the UAE, the Netherlands, and the UK. Trade experts have highlighted India’s reliance on Western markets, particularly the US, which makes it vulnerable to external shocks, such as the demand slowdown seen in recent quarters.

Outcome of US elections

Fitch Ratings, in a report last month, indicated that the outcome of the US elections in November could lead to a renewed surge in US trade protectionism. While the tariffs have been particularly targeting China, the agency noted that several countries, including Canada, Mexico, and Vietnam, could be affected. India, being the eighth-largest importer to the US, could also face repercussions.

The rating agency also pointed out that the overall US goods trade deficit averaged \$1.1 trillion in 2022-2023. Although the trade

Wall St rallies after Fed’s 50 bps rate cut

REUTERS
NEW YORK, SEPTEMBER 18

US STOCKS shot higher on Wednesday after the Federal Reserve cut interest rates by 50 basis points, the high side of estimates for its first cut in more than four years. Citing a “greater confidence” that inflation is moving towards the central bank’s 2 per cent target, the Fed cut rates by half of a percentage point, as it now focuses on keeping the labor market healthy.

“The Fed ended the pause with a bang. It’s a strong signal that they cut by 50 bps and expect another 50 basis points of cuts this year,” said Brian Jacobsen, chief economist at Annex Wealth Management in Menomonee Falls, Wisconsin. “The Fed is projecting that by front loading the cuts they can stick the landing with the unemployment rate at 4.4 per cent and inflation dropping to target quickly.”



Reuters

Screens display the Federal Reserve rate announcement at the New York Stock Exchange (NYSE).

Market expectations for the size of the rate cut had been volatile in recent days, pricing in about a 65 per cent chance for a 25 basis point cut last week to a 57 per cent chance for the larger 50 basis point cut earlier on Wednesday, according to CME’s FedWatch Tool.

EXPLAINED US Fed rate cut: Likely India impact

FOLLOWING THE rate cut, the US debt markets might register lower returns, which could trigger a churn in emerging market equities, improving foreign investor enthusiasm. For the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), like other central banks, the likelihood of a future rate cut is somewhat predicated on the US Fed’s decision to cut rates. The RBI last cut the repo rate by 40 basis points to 4 per cent in May 2020 when the Covid pandemic raged across the country affecting the entire economy, leading to slowdown in demand, production cuts and job losses. Since then, the RBI has hiked the repo rate by 250 points to 6.5 per cent in order to tackle runaway inflation. The RBI’s next MPC meeting is slated for early October (7-9).

Borrowing costs had been parked at their highest levels in over two decades since July 2023, when the central bank last hiked interest rates by 25 basis points to between 5.25 per cent and 5.50 per cent to combat inflation.

The Dow Jones Industrial

Average, opens new tab rose 165.62 points, or 0.40 per cent, to 41,771.80, the S&P 500, opens new tab gained 29.06 points, or 0.52 per cent, to 5,663.64 and the Nasdaq Composite, opens new tab gained 139.26 points, or 0.79 per cent, to 17,767.32.

PTI

BRIEFLY

Will challenge Star India claims, says ZEEL

New Delhi: Zee Entertainment Enterprises Ltd on Wednesday said Star India has sought \$940 million damages at the ongoing case in the London Court of International Arbitration (LCIA) over non-compliance with the agreement for the sub-licence of TV broadcasting rights of ICC international matches from 2024 to 2027. PTI

BHEL pays ₹55 cr final dividend for 2023-24 to govt

New Delhi: State-owned Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd (BHEL) on Wednesday said it has paid a final dividend of Rs 55 crore for 2023-24 to the government. A cheque towards the final dividend on the equity (63.17 per cent) held by the Government of India, was presented to H D Kumaraswamy, Union Minister of Heavy Industries and Steel, a company statement said. PTI

Amazon names Samir Kumar to lead India ops

New Delhi: Amazon on Wednesday announced that Samir Kumar will take on the responsibility to lead India as its country manager, following the resignation of Manish Tiwary. PTI

Advance taxes up 20% in Q2, personal income tax growth stronger

PRASANTA SAHU
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 18

ADVANCE TAXES paid by corporates, other firms and individuals rose 20 per cent on year in the second quarter of the current fiscal year to Rs 2.87 lakh crore as per latest data, indicating that an earnings slowdown in the first quarter hasn’t dented India Inc’s confidence in likely profitability levels through the current fiscal year.

The year-on-year growth in advance taxes collected by the government was marginally higher in Q1 at 27.4 per cent.

By September 17, corporates paid advance taxes to the tune of Rs 2.18 lakh crore for Q2FY25, up 16 per cent on year.

Advance tax paid by personal

income taxpayers rose at a higher rate of 37 per cent to Rs 69,886 crore in the quarter. This is in line with a trend seen in recent years, with shift of tax burden away from corporates to individuals. The Budget decisions on capital gains tax, too, have seemingly reinforced this.

Typically, 15 per cent of the advance taxes are paid in Q1, 30 per cent each in Q2 and Q3, and 25 per cent in the final quarter of a fiscal year. The Centre’s direct tax collection collections, net of refunds, rose 16 per cent on year to Rs 9.96 lakh crore till September 17 of the current financial year, according to official data. This amounted to 45 per cent of the FY25 target of Rs 22.07 lakh crore. The required rate of growth for meeting the annual target is 12.8 per cent. FE

UPS won’t overburden the fisc, says Sitharaman

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 18

THE UNIFIED Pension Scheme (UPS), which guarantees 50 per cent of pay as a pension, will take care of the government employees’ interest as well as the taxpayers’ interest by not overburdening the future generations with a heavy pension bill, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said on Wednesday.

In the recent Budget, the government announced UPS for central government employees effective April 1, 2025 but covers all staff who joined the National Pension System (NPS) since 2004. The state governments can also adopt UPS for their staff under NPS. “It has the best elements, I would think of, Old Pension Scheme (OPS), and NPS, and it provides an assured pension after retirement, which is what OPS did, but here it also has other



Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman at the launch of NPS Vatsalya Scheme, in New Delhi on Wednesday. PTI

features,” Sitharaman said at the launch of NPS Vatsalya – a pension scheme for children below the age of 18 years. The minimum contribution for the scheme is Rs 1,000 annually and pension would accrue after 60 years of age. FE

Maharashtra govt cancels ₹3K-cr insurance contract with UII

GEORGE MATHEW & ALOK DESHPANDE
MUMBAI, SEPTEMBER 18

THE MAHARASHTRA government has terminated the Rs 3,000 crore contract with Chennai-based public sector United India Insurance (UII) for implementing the state’s flagship health insurance scheme – the integrated Mahatma Jyoti Ba Phule Jan Arogya Yojana (MJPJAY) – citing “unsatisfactory response” from the insurer.

Instead, the state government is likely to implement the universal health coverage on its own

without involving any insurers. The Central government contributes around 60 per cent of the premium while the balance is paid by the State.

Ramesh Chavan, CEO, Mahatma Phule Jan Arogya Yojana, said that the contract was terminated because of unsatisfactory response from the insurance company. “After we signed the contract in June, the company was to pay Rs 93 crore performance bank guarantee which they did not pay. Additionally due to increase in claim amount last year, the company was delaying the payment and we started receiving a number of complaints

The state government is likely to implement the universal health coverage on its own

from the hospital,” he said.

Chavan added that the government held around two to three meetings with the higher leadership of the company but the performance did not improve. “We finally had to take action,” he said.

UII had won a fresh mandate from the state for implementing MJPJAY 2.0 (with universal health coverage) in June and

the cover was in force since July this year.

While the scheme was profitable for UII in the first year, it had refunded Rs 265 crore surplus to the state government. There was no profit and no loss in the second year, but in the subsequent two years, the scheme was a loss-making one for the insurer. This could be one reason for the insurer to show an unsatisfactory response, according to official sources.

Under the new universal health coverage, the state finalised a premium of Rs 1,300 per family for an estimated 2.38 crore families with a total popu-

lation of 12.3 crore. The total insurance premium was over Rs 3,000 crore, which was to be paid to UII. The family coverage was increased from Rs 1.5 lakh to Rs 5 lakh.

UII was to cover up to Rs 1.5 lakh per family and the rest was to be managed by the state agency State Health Assurance Society (SHAS). However, the state government hasn’t paid any premium till now and, instead, preferred to cancel the contract with the insurer without giving any reasons or notice last week, an insurance official alleged.

FULL REPORT ON www.indianexpress.com

Indian weightlifters gave a splendid display, winning 11 gold and three silver medals so far at the 2024 Commonwealth Youth, Junior and Senior Weightlifting Championships. Babulal Hembrom, Mina Santa, Bedaarat Bharali, Jyoshna Sabar, Akanksha Vyavahare, Ashmita Dhone, Bhargavi B, A Maharajan, Mina Santa, V Kishor, T Madhavan, Bolo Yalam are some of the gold winners. **PTI**

Prolific Mendis gives Sri Lanka the edge in 1st Test vs NZ



Sri Lanka's Kamindu Mendis celebrates his century on Day 1 of the first Test vs New Zealand in Galle on Wednesday. **AP**

ASSOCIATED PRESS
GALLE, SEPTEMBER 18

RAISED UP the order to score even more runs, prolific middle-order batter Kamindu Mendis struck a fine hundred on Wednesday to rescue Sri Lanka from a precarious position as the hosts reached 302-7 at stumps on Day 1 of the first test against New Zealand.

Kiwi quick William O'Rourke claimed three wickets in Galle but Mendis (114) was untroubled, posting his fourth century in test match cricket in only his seventh Test.

The left-handed batsman has scored more than 800 runs in just 11 innings and he is on course to become the fastest Sri Lankan to 1,000 test runs, with Roy Dias (23 innings) currently holding that record. Apart from four hundreds, Mendis also has scored four half-centuries.

Mendis had been batting at No. 7 until this test match, when he was promoted to No. 5. Often he had batted with the tail while occupying the lower position and had run out of partners.

New Zealand had the advantage after reducing Sri Lanka to 178-5 and with the last recognized pair out in the middle. Mendis, with Kusal Mendis (50), was involved in a 103-run partnership for the sixth wicket to help Sri Lanka fight back.

Mendis reached his century by putting away a full toss from part-time spinner Rachin Ravindra to the boundary.

Kusal Mendis, made to keep wicket and pushed to No. 7 in this game, was fighting for his place but should be fine for the rest of the series. The partnership was broken when Kusal Mendis was dismissed in unusual fashion. The batter pulled Glenn Phillips' delivery and the ball struck short leg fielder Tom Latham and popped up to Tim Southee at short mid-wicket for an easy catch.

New Zealand took the second new ball soon after it was available and it was spinner Ajaz Patel who made the breakthrough by dismissing Kamindu Mendis with just five minutes to go for stumps.

Sri Lanka lost both its openers Pathum Nissanka (27) and Dimuth Karunaratne (2) early in the day after electing to bat first as O'Rourke removed both batters.

O'Rourke also struck Angelo Mathews on his right index finger forcing the batter to retire. He did come out to bat after lunch and made 36.

Phillips was the pick of the spinners, bowling captain Dhananjaya de Silva through the gate. New Zealand had a warm-up test match last week against Afghanistan in India washed out after five days without a ball being bowled. Sri Lanka is coming off a three-match test series in England which the hosts won 2-1. The teams will play a second test beginning Sept. 26, also at Galle.

BRIEF SCORES: Sri Lanka 302/7 (Kamindu 114, Kusal 50; O'Rourke 3/54, Phillips 2/52) vs New Zealand

INDIA VS BANGLADESH: FIRST TEST, CHENNAI

Gambhir's mantra: Adapt, don't adopt a style

As home series against the neighbours begins, coach stresses on importance of defensive technique to cope with quality spinners

VENKATA KRISHNA B
CHENNAI, SEPTEMBER 18

FOUR MONTHS, three opponents, 10 Tests and a place in the World Test Championship final up for the grabs. For a team that has been the most consistent one in the format, this season could well be an era defining one. The WTC title may still be eluding India, but for the nucleus of the side, who have been the torchbearers of Test cricket, this is a format that has been close to their heart. It is the one they see their future in, especially after handing over the baton to the young generation. Their new head coach Gautam Gambhir has already experienced it first hand in the dressing room that he wants to take forward the legacy seeds sowed by Ravi Shastri and Rahul Dravid.

A new head coach coming in usually brings changes in personnel, style with a new vision being planted. But as India's home season begins with the first Test against Bangladesh here on Thursday, with their eyes already directed towards the five Tests in Australia beginning November, Gambhir laid bare his plans.

"Look, I've always been a believer that the best style is the style that wins," Gambhir began. "We want to be a team that adapts and that learns quickly, rather than adopting one style. Because if you start adopting one style, then there is no growth. We want guys to be playing the situation, the conditions, and then keep growing every day. And that is all that matters. You know, all this, giving a name to a certain style and playing only one way, see, ultimately sport is all about results. And the best, as I just mentioned, the best style is the style that wins," Gambhir said.

It almost sounded as if Shastri was behind the mic. From being a result-oriented style under Shastri-Virat Kohli, under Rahul Dravid it was process driven. With Dravid having three ICC white-ball events in less than two years, India's priority had tilted towards the short formats with the Test squad almost in auto-pilot mode. But here we are, with the Test stars in the mid-30s and a transition already underway, India are now setting their sight on lifting the WTC maze, which has eluded them in the last two cycles despite reaching successive finals.

It was evident as early as last month when Gambhir wanted the Test regulars to feature in the Duleep Trophy to prepare for the gruelling season ahead. The upcoming two Tests against Bangladesh and the three to follow against New Zealand give Gambhir the perfect landing in the format. With a full-strength squad disposal, should India bring their A-game, overcoming Bangladesh won't be much of a task. But Gambhir knows there is work to be done in the format, especially when out of the four Tests they have lost since 2013, three have come in the last three years.

New chinks in every series

In every series over the last couple of years, they have found new chinks appearing out of nowhere. They have been able to find solutions from with-in as well as from those coming into the set up like in the case of Dhruv Jurel, Sarfaraz Khan in the Tests against England. But with a tour of Australia on the horizon, such openings have the potential to drag their proud legacy down.

In Rohit Sharma, Virat Kohli, R Ashwin, Ravindra Jadeja, Jasprit Bumrah, the nucleus of the side is still intact. That Gambhir took several references in the 19-minute interaction with the media revealed how much he values their experience. But more importantly, despite the young ones waiting in the wings, he threw the weight behind the ones who have been part of the set-up. In that sense, Rishabh Pant and KL Rahul, two players who are expected to play a big role in Australia in the middle-order will straight-away start at the MA Chidambaram Stadium. "I feel Jurel is a quality player and he has



(L-R) Batsman Virat Kohli, coach Gautam Gambhir and chairman of selectors Ajit Agarkar share a light moment in training. **PTI**

NUMBER PLATE

17

Number of home Test series India have won on the trot, a run dating back to December 2012.

Number of Tests Bangladesh have won against India: Played 13, lost 11, drawn 2.

done phenomenally well in the last season, played some really crucial knocks under pressure against England. But again, when Rishabh is coming in, obviously he's done really well across most of the conditions. So sometimes people will have to wait. And someone like Sarfaraz (Khan), yes, he's also done really well, but sometimes you just have to wait for the opportunity and keep working hard, keep doing the right things. That is what bench strength is all about," Gambhir said.

While Australia is still a couple of months away, for India to get past Bangladesh and New Zealand unscathed at home, there is a lot to be done with regards to their game against spinners. Unlike Australia and England – their last two opponents at home in Tests – they were undone by unheralded spinners. But both Bangladesh and New Zealand have a quality pool of spinners with experience in hand. In his first assignment in Sri Lanka, Gambhir saw India combust against their spinners, reopening old wounds.

"I still believe that this batting lineup has so much quality that we can play any opposition, any bowling line-up, any spin attack in any conditions. In Test Cricket, you have time to defend and get the bowler to play on his own strength. If you want to play well in Test Cricket, it will come down to how tight your defence is. A good defence can definitely make you a good Test cricketer. So, it is important to work on those small things," Gambhir said.

First Test, Day 1: Live on Jio Cinema & Sports18, 9.30am

Red-soil Chennai pitch sheds grass ahead of India's first Test against Bangladesh

VENKATA KRISHNA B
CHENNAI, SEPTEMBER 18

WITH INDIA not ready to give any advantage to Bangladesh – who have three quality spinners in their ranks – it has been a challenging few days for the groundstaff at the MA Chidambaram Stadium to handle the red-soil surface in sweltering Chennai heat.

Two questions raise: Why did they have the red soil that abets bounce and what did they do to mitigate Bangladesh's spinners, considering when India arrived here last Thursday for the preparatory camp, the pitch No 4 to used for the Test had a thick grass cover that it was almost impossible to separate it from the outfield?

The red soil because Indian Express understands that the India team management has preferred a bouncy track for the Test with an eye on the Australia tour. Out of the five home Tests lined-up, they are set to play three on red soil pitches in Chennai, Pune and Mumbai as it generally tends to aid good bounce.

Here is how the second question of not handing spin advantage to Bangladesh was answered by the curator C Ramesh Kumar and his staff over the last couple of days: Some good-old shaving of the grass, with a bit of help from hessian cloth and tarpaulin covers.

Even on Wednesday morning, there was a bit of grass cover on the pitch, but it was shaved off by afternoon before the groundstaff covered it with a hessian cloth. Using hessian cloth is generally done to avoid sweating on the pitch; the groundstaff have had to keep an eye on the rising mercury levels as well. Over the past four days, the temperature has flirted in the high 30s, a record-high for September.

With such heat around, the groundstaff also have to be wary of the pitch crumbling



Ground staff prepares the pitch on Wednesday ahead of the first Test. **PTI**

as it would bring spinners into play too early into the Test. As a result they have watered the pitch at least twice between 9 am to 5 pm. While it is expected to hold the pitch firm, it is also expected to keep the bounce factor intact.

On Tuesday, they even used the tarpaulin covers on top of the hessian cloth right through the afternoon before opening it only when the shadows covered the playing surface. It was done to ensure excessive sweating on the pitch which will ensure there is enough moisture.

On the eve of the Test, the pitch had a tinge of grass, but whether it remains on the morning of the Test is the big question now.

With the temperatures hotter than usual in the month of September, the groundstaff have been taking extra care of the surface. Though the grass was shaved off by the time India's camp ended on Saturday, it has been watered regularly since then, and rolled several times to kill the live grass.

Ahead of the Test, India almost used a

similar pitch for their practice sessions, which had purchase for everyone with hardly any footmarks. They even watered it regularly to keep it as intact as possible, which hints at what they expect over the course of the Test.

Spin trio

The last time Bangladesh were here, India played three seamers in the two Tests at Indore and Kolkata. While India have since relied on a three-spinner formula with R Ashwin and Ravindra Jadeja being constants, *The Indian Express* understands that a call on whether to go with a third spinner in Kuldeep Yadav will be taken only on the morning of the Test on Thursday as they have to factor in the weather as well.

While the excessive heat would break the pitch, there are also forecasts of thunderstorms on Friday and Saturday night, which would keep the moisture intact.

Hence, the chances of India taking the field with three pacers is also being pondered as they expect the bounce to stay intact throughout the Test. If it is indeed three pacers then Akash Deep could join Jasprit Bumrah and Mohammed Siraj in the pace pack. But if it comes down to only two seamers, then India are likely to choose between Siraj and Akash.

With an eye on the Australia trip and the short turnover between matches against Bangladesh and New Zealand at home, India are keen on rotating their pace pack. With Akash in the mix, India want him to partner one of the senior pacers who would get adequate recovery time. But having had a month-long rest, there are no workload concerns as of now.

The batting line-up is locked with KL Rahul set to take his spot back from Sarfaraz Khan and Rishabh Pant coming in place of Dhruv Jurel.

Sidelined Iyer needs mountain of runs to surge back from the fringes

SANDIPI G

ANANTAPUR, SEPTEMBER 18

RELATABLE TO the arid expanse that surrounds the Rural Development Trust Ground of Anantapur has been the fate of Shreyas Iyer. The Duleep Trophy was deemed as Iyer's comeback path, after he was nudged out of the national team by a combination of his technical frailties as well as the intense jostle for a toe-hold in the middle order. But rather than maximising the granted opportunity to hoard runs and push his comeback file, his stocks, dry as the parched farmlands that dot the district, have magnificently sunk.

His four innings in the second driest district in the country, which gets on an average 34 days of rainfall a year, has fetched him just 104 runs. The details paint a grimmer picture of the uncertain mindset that has clutched him. Thrice, seamers nailed him and once a spinner claimed him. None of them were unplayable balls; none of them were the short-length kryptonite, at least two of them were of softer nature, and twice he perished after looking reasonably well-

settled. So much so that, when watched in isolation and not seen through the prism of his recent drought, his 54 and 41 were not exactly specimens of struggles. In both outings, he has looked fairly comfortable, before playing injudicious strokes to flounder.

An arm-ball from the under-appreciated Shams Mulani split through his legs. In real time it looked like the ball had kept low. But it was an illusion his back-foot drag created. It was a classic instance of misjudgment, where the ball came out fuller than he had anticipated and ricocheted off his open left-foot to hit the stumps. Baited by a spinner might have hurt him, because in a fine mood, he is an undisturbed destroyer of them.

The promising 54, off 44 balls, ended when he looked to force the strapping Anshul Kambhoj through mid-on and the ball stopped a fraction at him. Before the lapse, he had unfurled air-borne drives through the off-side, shots that stung the turf like the crack of a rifle. It has not been so much a case of him looking wretched as it has been a matter of his concentration snapping and the mind slipping into confusion.

At times, he looks like he has a definite



In four Duleep Trophy innings, Shreyas Iyer has scored just 104 runs. **File**

plan to reverse his fallow patch. That is to attack his way back. It could be a rewarding ploy, but only if one knows to differentiate the thin margin between looking silly and

aggressive. It's also symptomatic of those batsmen too desperate to prove oneself too hard. Once the methods begin to tick, the rush of blood pushes out common sense. But

the positive is that Iyer would know that he is not ploughing through as horrible a patch as the cynics believe. Unless he scores a big one, the judgement will persist.

However, the glaring old short-ball flaw persists. Almost every movement he makes when facing seamers is a reaction to it. He has had a tendency to hang back, waiting on the back-foot for that extra second to defang it. In the process, he has compromised his biggest strength when facing seamers, his ability to stride out those long legs and drive through the covers. Before the short balls began to reside rent-free in his head, he was an excellent cutter of the ball too, when he arches his upper body and lets his hands flow.

But the short-ball woe has not only curtailed his off-side fluency but also made him easy to set up. As did Khaled Ahmed in the now infamous sunglasses faux pas. The build-up was too simple and basic. The first two were back of length of ball (both he defended on the back foot), the third (he was beaten) and fifth (ducked) were shorter, the fourth (left) and sixth (defended on the back foot) were back of length. The seventh was fuller and he tried to drive, with the weight pinned

on the back foot and the front-leg wobbling as he drove.

In his first innings of the tournament too, his front-foot press was timid, as though the good-length caught him in surprise. He could have shouldered arms, but when doubt-ridden, batsmen invariably get sucked into the temptation of feeling the ball. Now, in refusing to find a resolute method to resolve the short-ball weakness, he has made himself vulnerable to the full and good length balls too. It's like the house of cards. You just whisper something at the base and the entire arrangement collapses. One fundamental defect could ruin the entire structure, leading to a chain of errors. Those innings he found starts, he was better organised and less predetermined.

Iyer has two more innings to salvage his Duleep Trophy, and make a last-minute push to reclaim his Test cap. He is in the outer laps of the race but a couple of injuries and a few bad outings for those in the middle order could pave his back. But he needs runs to be in the race. A few spells of rain are forecast this weekend, maybe it is the week Iyer too begins to pour runs.

